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THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH 2015

NATIONAL PET MONTH & RURAL LIFE IN THE VALE

SIX NATIONS RUGBY:
'THE RED DRAGON ROARS DEFIANCE'
BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

THE ORGANISERS ARE 'RINGING THE CHANGES'!

The Cowbridge food festival gets ready for a Maytime extravaganza!

THE organisers of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival are gearing up for this year's event – which for the first time will take place in May.

The festival makes a welcome return on Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25, and there will be a number of changes!

The festival manager Polly Wilson said: "With our move from Autumn to Spring, this is the ideal time to ring the changes.

"We have addressed feedback and created a further site for ticket-holders which will hold the hot food stalls, a seating area and a performing space for local musicians.

"We hope that this will create a family friendly relaxing hub, although I'm sure the usual queues will occur at the old favourites".

The extra performing space has led the organisers to put out a call to local musicians who would like to showcase their talents.

Polly said: "We are asking local artists of every genre and age to get in touch with sound clips or link to their work.

"We will put in a PA and are offering 30-40 minute slots for them to perform throughout the weekend. It is a great way of widening your audience and perhaps shifting a few CDs."

Full details and the complete line up can be found on the website *www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org*. To submit an audition clip, email a You Tube link to *info@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org* or post a CD to Polly Wilson, c/o Effective Communication, 46-48 Cardiff Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2DT.

Tickets for the festival – which cost £5 per day or £8 for the weekend – can be purchased online for the first time with a 10 per cent discount on all pre-sale tickets. Children 12 years and under go free.

EMMAUS STORE OPENS IN TOWN

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp, welcomed the Emmaus charity to the town yesterday (Wednesday) when the organisation opened its new charity shop in the High Street. Emmaus gives homeless people a chance to get back on their feet by living and working in an Emmaus house. The first such house in Wales (there are 23 in England) will open in Bridgend in the autumn, and proceeds from the charity shop will go towards running costs.

ABOVE (left to right): Tom Clarke (Emmaus); Teresa Wood (joint shop manager); Coun Peter Knapp; Jeane Wright (joint shop manager) and John Noble (Emmaus South West chairman). Photograph by Paul Fears Photography.

SEE NEXT WEEK'S GEM FOR A FULL REPORT ON THE OPENING.

GPs are retiring after 70 years in Cowbridge

TWO popular Cowbridge GPs are retiring at the end of March after a combined service to the town of 70 years.

Dr Richard Jones saw his first patient in 1978, while Dr Janet Taylor started in 1982. They are both members of the Western Vale Group Practice, which is now based close to the leisure centre.

The practice manager, Patricia Hold, told The GEM: "They will be massively missed for their knowledge and their advice, which has been so valuable over the years."

She said that a large number of patients had already called in to pass on their best wishes to the two GPs. A full time GP, Dr Tom Cleland, will be joining the practice as a replacement.

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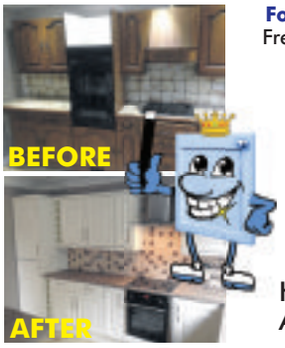

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

DIY AT THE COUNCIL TIP!

THE Vale Council is not taking bookings for the removal of bulky household waste until April 1, when they will introduce charges (this is not a joke).

So in the meantime, your old fridge and double bed will have to remain on your doorstep – probably until at least May 1. If you are minded to do their job for them and take it yourself, you will have to apply for a licence, as it will have to be by van or by trailer – because you can't get them into a car.

If you don't own one, then you will have to hire a van or a trailer. I don't think that you will get a rebate on your council tax.

You will then have to undertake the dangerous journey to the Llandow tip, in and out of the bomb craters.

The writer of this letter is undertaking this odyssey in the next few days but as he is 70, will have no difficulty in heaving the old double bed and mattress up over the side of the container.

I expect that he will pass many discarded items of household furniture that have simply been dumped in the lanes!

Guy Howel Jones, Llandough.

LIFE GOES ON OUTSIDE EU

IN reply to Mr Kennet's letter in The GEM last week, here are some thoughts on leaving the EU (which, incidentally, I believe will never happen, although I sincerely wish it would).

Firstly, the countries that make up the EU sell to us far more than we sell to them and, therefore, have far more to lose if we left.

For instance, GB is in the top five buyers of German and French products, from cars to champagne.

If we left, will workers in these countries, who are always far more vocal than our workers, allow employers to stop trading with the UK because we are outside the EU? Agreements would be quickly arranged to enable us to carry on trading, let there be little doubt about that.

As for the argument that foreign companies would leave the UK if we left the EU, the largest investors in Britain are countries outside the EU anyway, and even Germany invests far more outside the euro zone than it does in the common market. Does it know something we don't? Interestingly, one of the largest Volkswagen car factories in the world is in Russia of all places.

How do the largest economies in the world, China and USA, manage outside the EU? The American economy, in particular, at present is growing at a rate that is four to five times faster than any country on mainland Europe, which is well and truly in the doldrums – with among many other problems record unemployment rates.

In the UK, we have escaped a lot of these issues because more by luck than judgement we never signed up to the single currency, although all the Euro experts at the time said we will miss out if we didn't (the same soothsayers who say we must not leave the EU). How wrong they were!

I could agree with Mr Kennett if the EU was the organisation I voted for all those years ago, but it is not. As usual, British people who are the most tolerant and fair minded in the world do, despite all the facts to the contrary, believe the so-called experts – that the EU is the answer to all our ills – which it certainly is not.

Ian Hampton, Maesteg.

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'Cowbridge is better placed for extra housing than Barry'

AS a former Barry resident and 'Friend of Weycock Cross', I would like to express my utter disdain at the appalling attitudes of the majority of the Cowbridge NIMBYs.

I know that I am not on my own in having to tolerate the constant digs and put downs that these 'good people' dish out about a town they obviously know little about.

While some areas need a little TLC, this town has many historical features around the dock area (an area which, incidentally, is world famous for being integral to the industrial revolution).

It boasts a beautiful country park and several sites of archeological interest, not to mention coastal access. It is such a shame that the small market town of Cowbridge is quite prepared to vandalise all of this to protect its space (I refer to last week's edition of The GEM): 'Newcomers from London find Cowbridge Charming … 'but more houses in the town may spoil this… they should be built in Barry'.

It does seem that Cowbridge's campaign is getting quite desperate as they seem to be recruiting ex-participants of 'Escape to the Country' (judging by the content of their letter) and only two weeks ago, visitors from America felt compelled to write in.

However small Cowbridge is in comparison to Barry, it certainly has a better variety of shops, amenities and infrastructure, boasting easy access west and east to the M4, thus being easily able to accommodate more housing.

In short, places like Barry, Rhoose and Llantwit Major are full to capacity – so it is high time that the 'rural Vale' picked up the slack and stopped selfishly guarding their own interests.

I mentioned at the beginning of my letter that I am a former resident of Barry; I have since moved to Rhoose – but hey, it's all the same place, especially as the plans have just been approved for more houses to be built north of the railway line.

If I write in again I'm sure my address will come under 'Brhoose'.

Name and address supplied.

Cowbridge 'selfish' over new housing

WHAT a selfish attitude some residents of Cowbridge appear to have in saying "Don't build houses in Cowbridge, or even Llandow, build them in Barry."

I think the people of Barry have seen enough new houses – the once green areas now under concrete in and around the town. My family home used to be surrounded by green fields where I could admire the countryside but no longer, it's all under concrete, as are many parts of Barry and its outskirts.

Also, roads leading from Barry are virtually gridlocked, whereas Cowbridge is just a stone's throw from the A48.

Richard Enos, Barry.

'Don't dump extra houses on Barry'

IN reply to 'Newcomers from London' letter in The GEM on March 12, how lucky Mr and Mrs Giles Betts are!

They are retired in their 40s, own three houses, and live in a beautiful Vale of Glamorgan village! But it's unlucky for Cowbridge villagers, who might want to buy in their village and not rent from the 'community minded' couple!

Also, unlucky for Barry residents who obviously love being 'dumped on' for extra housing developments by the couple and their local councillors, namely Cox and Jarvie!

From a Barrian, fed up with 'Should Be Built In Barry' headlines!

Mrs Cox, Barry.

See more readers' letters on page 22

Thanks to Vale MP

MEMBERS of Parliament have taken much criticism lately, however, I must speak as I find.

As a widowed single parent mother of a severely disabled nine-year old son and a two-year-old daughter, I qualify for a disabled vehicle.

Some weeks ago, I was involved in a crash which caused the car to be written off by the company that has the contract to supply such vehicles to people like myself.

The company loaned me a car as a temporary replacement for a couple of weeks, but then threatened to take it off me, and told me that I would have to wait many weeks for a permanent replacement.

Despite explaining to them that I needed the car to take my daughter to nursery and my son to a special school, neither within walking distance of my house, I was unable to get an assurance that they would give me a car soon.

In desperation, I therefore emailed Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale, and explained my situation to him; I had an immediate response from his office telling me that the company would not now be coming to collect the car. Within two days I was given an assurance that I could keep the temporary car until a permanent car was available.

A big thanks to Mr Cairns (ps, I'm not a political person).

Sarah Jayne Maynard, Barry.

Full marks to PoW hospital!

HAVING just spent a week in AMU (acute medical unit) and ward two at the Princess of Wales Hospital, I can say, with confidence, that the attention and treatment I received in both wards was most heartening.

The doctors I saw immediately put my mind at rest, as did the nurses and other staff. I include, especially, the tea ladies in both wards, who made me feel at home.

The above is not only my opinion, as other patients I spoke to in both wards could not speak highly enough of the professionalism of all the staff.

Certainly there were no complaints about the quality and quantity of the food (cooked meals) served three times a day. Water jugs were continually topped up, and drinking tumblers rinsed or changed as required.

Medicines were given correctly and on time, as far as I could tell, according to a fool-proof procedure. Doctors' ward visits were regular and not rushed, as were physio visits.

I would also like to thank Eryl Surgery in Llantwit Major for looking after me so well.

Dave Lane, Llantwit Major.

Marie Curie's 'thank you'

THANK YOU to The Glamorgan GEM for supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care with your donation of £50. Marie Curie Cancer Care provides extensive inpatient care at our purpose-built hospice, alongside community care delivered through day services, outpatients and clinical nurse specialists.

As a result, the hospice cared for 1,248 people last year. Complementing our hospice care is a team of dedicated Marie Curie Nurses looking after people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses in their own home. Last year, these nurses cared for 276 people in your local area.

Marie Curie Cancer Care relies on voluntary contributions and, therefore, your donation is incredibly valuable to patients, their families and to us. It makes a difference because it costs:

- £180 to provide a full nine-hour Marie Curie nursing shift;
- £20 for one hour of Marie Curie nursing care in a patient's home;
- £5 for bereavement booklets to support 20 children.

There are many ways for people to support Marie Curie Cancer Care – including volunteering, taking part in one of our events or by getting involved with your local fundraising group or Marie Curie shop.

Please visit our website for more information: *www.mariecurie.org.uk*.

Thank you again for your support and for the difference you have made.

Karen, Helen, Georgina and Sarah Community Fundraising Team, Penarth.

Police and the miners

IN response to the letter from Coun KJ Watts (The GEM, March 12): Leanne Wood, leader of Plaid Cymru is absolutely right – the perception of policing did change for the worse in those mining communities.

The evidence that Mr Watts seeks is on record in film footage and independent witness statements taken during the miners' strike, an event that was ingeniously engineered by the then Thatcherite Government, the spider's web that Arthur Scargill walked right into.

I watched the sickening scenes of blood pouring down the faces of miners after assaults from mounted police officers, shown on television news.

I hasten to add that only a minority of police not only failed to protect, but actually assaulted people in this manner, but it only takes a handful of bad apples for the whole barrel to acquire a rotten reputation.

And, very importantly, Leanne Wood and Plaid Cymru are far more in tune with mining communities and the common masses, than any Conservative retired police person or Tory councillor could ever be.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 26)

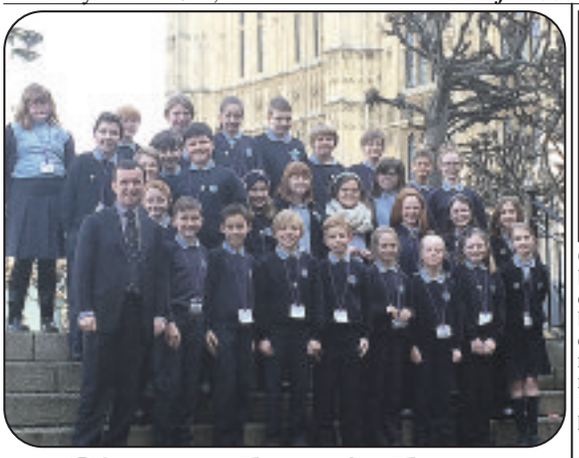
The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
19 Thur	05.22	9.9	17.49	10.1
20 Fri	06.11	10.5	18.34	10.5
21 Sat	06.58	10.8	19.19	10.7
22 Sun	07.42	10.9	19.59	10.6
23 Mon	08.24	10.6	20.43	10.3
24 Tues	09.07	10.1	21.21	9.7
25 Wed	09.47	9.4	22.58	9.1
26 Thur	10.31	8.8	22.52	8.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.



Cowbridge pupils visit Westminster

PUPILS from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge made a curriculum-based visit to Westminster recently for a tour.

The group met Vale MP Alun Cairns and then took part in an interactive workshop on the role of democracy.

The pupils left Cowbridge at 5.30am for a full day of activity in Parliament, and the group took part in a number of debates, and question and answer sessions.

Mr Cairns said: "It was a privilege to welcome the pupils from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg Primary School to Westminster. The trip was very well organised by the teachers, and as the day is curriculum-based, the pupils had the opportunity to learn more about democracy and how Parliament operates."

Cowbridge is 14th in 'most wanted' list

COWBRIDGE is basking in the glow of being singled out by property experts on a national newspaper who made it the UK's 14th best town to live in.

Last week, St Hilary was ranked number one in the best villages list, compiled by the Sunday Times' 'Bricks and Mortar' team.

Last Sunday, the team moved onto towns, and it was Cowbridge's turn to be highly-ranked, coming in at number 14 in the 'best towns and suburbs' section.

Describing Cowbridge as a "trophy town with all the trimmings' the property experts say that it is "one of the most expensive places to live west of Offa's Dyke" – putting an average house price of £405,348 on property in the town.

They say the town is ideal for people with time on their hands, with Pembrokeshire 90 minutes away to the west, and with Cardiff 30 minutes east.

However, lest people get the idea that the town is a retirement community for the wealthy, the Sunday Times stresses that "there is much here for young families too".

Excellent schools, nearby surfing, fine restaurants and Waitrose are listed in support of this statement.

There is, says the newspaper's experts, only one "potential cloud on the horizon" – the 390-home Darren Farm development.

The Sunday Times' experts say of this: "Expect the locals to protest vociferously".

You only have to read The GEM's letters pages to know that locals are certainly discussing it passionately – but it is perhaps not as one-sided a discussion as The Sunday Times suggests!

PHILIP IRWIN

'DAY OF SILENCE' A BONUS FOR PARENTS!

SEBASTIAN, who is 11 years old and a pupil at Pendoyan School, completed a 'Day Of Silence', which was well received by his teachers, mum and dad.

Sebastian also raised £251 for Red Nose Day! When asked how it was going, Sebastian said... nothing.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan school

ON Friday, March 13, children were advised to take their pennies along to the school to enable them to buy cakes which were being made by the school staff.

All the money raised would be donated to the Comic Relief fund.

All the children at the school are taking part in a life skills week, including cooking and living in the great outdoors.

Saron Chapel

THE next service at Saron Chapel, Treoes will take place on Sunday, March 22 at 3pm conducted by Rev Bill Johnson. A warm welcome will be extended to everyone. It will be an opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours.

Young At Heart Club

AT the meeting held last week a letter of thanks was shown to members from the Noah's Ark children's hospital charity for the club's donation of £50.

For anyone outside the club wishing to donate to this worthy cause, the address is: The Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0SZ.

Get Well!

A GET Well message from everyone at the club goes to Sheila Hawkins who suffered a stroke some time ago and has been unable to join her friends at their weekly meetings.

Everyone at the club is also hopeful Gwen David will be able to return to club meetings, when the weather becomes warmer.

Bridge results

PENLLYN Bridge Club, February results:

Thursday, February 5 (20 pairs) - 1st Colin & Judith Nunn 67.93 per cent; 2nd Barbara Easterbrook & Marian East 63.64; 3rd Brian Tucker & Mike Baron 58.88.

Thursday, February 12 (18 pairs) - 1st Helen & Mike Ruttley 63.64 per cent; 2nd Margaret & Hugh Thomas 60.23; 3rd Joyce Hollway & Ian Dunglinson 57.95.

Thursday, February 19 (14 pairs) - 1st David & Marion Stephenson 60.61; 2nd Margaret & Hugh Thomas 59.09; 3rd Allan Evans & Gill Wybrow 57.95.

Thursday, February 26 (Robert Brown Cup, 16 pairs) - 1st Barbara Easterbrook & Marian East 62.66; 2nd Catherine Domican & John Hunter 55.84; 3rd Gill & Stan Harding 55.19.

CN

COWBRIDGE U3A LEARN HOW TOOL MAKERS HELP AFRICA

ON March 11, Cowbridge U3A had a talk from John Hanson and Mark from Porthcawl U3A on a remarkable scheme which they are involved in, linking with a depot north of Southhampton.

They renovate old tools such as carpentry; sewing machines (manual); bicycle repairs; blacksmith and many others, including beehive making kits. These are then shipped to South Saharan Africa and distributed to villages where they are used, with training, for self help to lift people out of poverty.

We were then shown examples of how what to the uninitiated might look like junk can be transformed into a useful tool.

An interesting and useful project by a secular group which relies on donations of old tools and money from the public.

There will be a collection sometime next month in Cowbridge, to be announced either in The GEM and/or the next meeting – so have a look in the shed or garage!

The next meeting at the Town Hall on April 8, 2pm, is entitled 'Life Behind the Camera' with Don Llewellyn.

Guild seeks members

LLANTWIT MAJOR Trefoil Guild meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 2pm in the Guide hut, off Colhugh Street.

Membership is for anyone who is over the age of 18 who may have been a Scout or Guide, but not necessarily!

We are always ready to assist local Guides and Scouts when they need help with projects, or visits to events abroad.

Our next meeting is on March 24, when Sue Banks is going to talk about her recent visit to Japan.

For further information, call 01446 793652. **KM**

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TENOVUS CHARITY PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS

The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK
They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.

TENOVUS CANCER CARE supports patients and their loved-ones when they most need help, and a special ceremony at Cowbridge Town Hall recognised some of those who enable that to happen – the charity's long serving volunteers.

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp, was among those keen to pay tribute to volunteers who have helped to raise funds since fundraising began in the town 20 years ago.

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Tapas restaurant teams up with school

Owen Morgan with students (and some rather yummy looking cakes!).

Cowbridge Comprehensive School students.

ABOVE: The guests enjoyed a wonderful evening.

GCSE students.

A TAPAS restaurant has teamed up with a local comprehensive school to help develop the hospitality skills of its students.

Bar 44 helped pupils from Cowbridge Comprehensive's GCSE and A Level Food Technology classes design and create a three course menu, which was served to the pupils' families.

After designing the menu with the help of Bar 44's co-founders Owen and Tom Morgan, students sold tickets to family members to attend two events at Bar 44 run by the pupils.

Students were split into two groups with one group remaining in the kitchen and preparing the food and the other group serving dishes to family members.

Owen Morgan provided a food masterclass beforehand to explain the cooking techniques behind the menu, which consisted of olives and tostados, slow braised beef and Valencian orange cake.

Bar 44's manager, Sophie Bowen, also provided a service masterclass for those who were serving food.

Family members paid £20 for tickets and over 100 were sold across the two evenings; £5 from every ticket will now be donated to the school to purchase new equipment for the catering department.

Owen Morgan said: "We really enjoyed having the pupils in the restaurant learning about food and service etiquette. We know how important practical experience is within the hospitality industry so we were thrilled we were able to help the school develop the students' skillset."

Kath Mallows, head of food technology at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, said: "The pupils had a brilliant experience at Bar 44. While students gain the practical knowledge from the course, learning about service etiquette is something that is new to them but will be extremely useful and important for them going forward."

BARRY GOLFER JAILED FOR SWINDLING DWP

A SWINDLER who cheated the state benefit system to the tune of more than £26,000 has been jailed for six months at Cardiff Crown Court, ***writes AJ SICLUNA*****.**

Alan Bannister (56), a former mechanical engineer, who had no previous convictions, of Barry Road, Barry, was described by his defence counsel, David Leathly, as "a broken man".

The court heard he had been secretly filmed by Department of Work and Pensions' investigators playing golf, despite claims to the authorities he could barely walk 50 yards without experiencing severe difficulties and it took him at least 15 minutes.

Bannister had been found guilty of obtaining money transfers by deception.

Recorder David Miller told him: "You committed what was a blatant fraud."

He said he grossly and dishonestly distorted his condition and his ability to walk.

The court heard that Bannister had been club champion at St Andrews Major Golf Club, Dinas Powys in 2006 and won many competitions while claiming benefits.

Said the Recorder: "At a time of national austerity, claiming benefits you are not entitled to is very serious. This benefit is for people who are virtually unable to walk."

During the trial, it was revealed that he had a taxpayer-funded mobility car after claiming he was in too much pain to walk, and he even used that car to drive to the club to play with his team, known as 'Sunday Swingers', and 'The Crazy Gang'.

Prosecutor Stuart McLeese said he continually made dishonest representations about the extent of his disability to gain access to benefits.

It was not in dispute, said Mr McLeese, that he suffered from a form of arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis, but he didn't record the true effects on him when he was annually required to fill in forms by the DWP.

The jury during the trial were shown a video taken by DWP investigators in which Bannister appeared to have no problems walking.

Bannister told the jury he had "good and bad days", and played golf off a handicap of seven.

He said his condition had made him depressed, and added: "I'm a fighter, and I will fight".

Because of his illness, he said, he had to give up work, took several types of drugs and was often in extreme pain.

He denied being a "freeloader and malingerer" and said that when he made claims for benefits, he didn't lie and didn't exaggerate his symptoms.

He said when he played golf, it was "stop, start".

The Recorder said that Bannister had persistently distorted the impact of his condition and had at no time indicated there had been an improvement.

In a pre-sentence report, said the Recorder, he still maintained his innocence of what he described as "a blatant fraud".

Earlier, his counsel said: "His was not pre-planned, cynical behaviour. He is genuinely poorly and his mobility is stretched."

Initially, said Mr Leathly, it was a bona fide claim which "soured" when he overstepped the mark.

"He has now learned the error of his ways and he is a cause celebre who has been vilified as a malingerer.

"Until he exaggerated his situation, he was an honourable man and the chances of him ever offending again are nil. He has suffered deeply by falling from grace, and is a broken man."

Adrian Landec of the DWP, said: "The message is clear; if you commit benefit fraud, and if you are found guilty, there are serious consequences."

He said that if there was a change of circumstances of any kind, don't wait to be caught but inform the department.

Rock choir helps Cowbridge Mayor's charity concert raise stunning £1,400

Verity-Belle Atkinson (above) and Sarah Maurice (below).

The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK
They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.

COUN Peter Knapp, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, recently staged a charity concert featuring local rock choirs.

The event was a great success and a delighted Coun Knapp told The GEM that it had raised £1,400 for the locally-based charity, Prostate Cymru. The concert was compered by TV personality Ruth Wignall, with featured vocallist Verity-Belle Atkinson, and Sarah Maurice playing the saxophone.

Art society

THIS evening (Thursday, March 19) Cowbridge Art Society welcomes artist Liam O'Connor who will give a short demonstration on an aspect of portrait painting, and a talk on oil painting.

On Thursday, March 26 it welcomes Cardiff artist David Gould to judge the annual Keith James Trophy, where members submit paintings for assessment.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm – 9pm and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

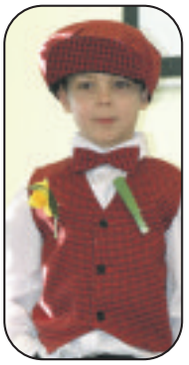
Free fun

THERE will be Easter eggs, face painting, balloon modelling, glitter tattoos, drawing competitions and more free fun for all of the family at the Bush Inn from 10am to 12pm on Easter Saturday, April 4.

ABOVE: Bouquets for Ruth Wignall and Verity-Belle Atkinson.

ABOVE (left to right): Lyn Murray (Prostate Cymru); Stephanie Bailey (Rock Choir leader) and Coun Peter Knapp.

Llancarfan Primary School celebrates St David's Day!



CHILDREN at Llancarfan Primary School put on a spectacular display by dressing up in traditional Welsh costume to celebrate St David's Day.

The Eisteddfod celebrations included instrumentals, singing, writing, dance, art, DT competitions and, of course, the Chairing of the Bard.

What a fabulous day we had! Da Iawn to all the winners!

CH

Barry RFC takes to Arms Park for an unusual fixture!

BARRY RFC will play one of the most unusual matches in its 129 year history when its special select team takes to the field at Cardiff Arms Park next Tuesday, March 24 (7pm).

Their opponents will be Sky Sports' School of Hard Knocks coached by Welsh legend Scott Quinnell and England World Cup winner Will Greenwood.

The ethos behind the School of Hard Knocks team is to give youngsters from the 'wrong side of the tracks' a new chance in life, learning discipline and teamwork through rugby, and delivering work opportunities at the end of the two month period.

School of Hard Knocks is represented by youngsters from South Wales.

Scott Quinnell explained: "Rugby gave us a huge amount in life – it taught us when you get knocked down, you get up and go again."

Barry RFC has agreed to be one of the School of Hard Knocks' latest opponents.

Barry committee member William Knapman told The GEM: "Clive Thomas who is on the Wooden Spoon committee was looking to arrange fixtures and got hold of me – it should be a good evening."

Fellow Barry RFC member Ken Chow said the School of Hard Knocks was a great initiative, teaching youngsters life skills, providing camaraderie and the chance of a job.

He encouraged people to get along to the match to support players of both sides – entry is free.

"It's going to be a good experience for our players. We're hoping there will be a big crowd and a good atmosphere."

Barry RFC is likely to field a select team of seconds and thirds because they are up against novices.

This week, the club's officials were attending a School of Hard Knock's clash against Llanishen to give them an idea of which players to pick to provide a fair selection.

TRC

Local twinning group plans its French connection

A VISIT to France is being organised by Cowbridge Town Twinning Association and there are a few spaces available, the organisers say.

The coach will leave Cowbridge on Thursday, May 28 returning on Monday, June 1. The cost, £175 per person, covers this travel, the ferry crossings and an overnight stay on the Thursday in a hotel near Caen.

The weekend's destination is Clisson, a delightful little town with vineyards, castle, market and river just to the south of Nantes.

"There is always a lively programme for us all together, and with our hosts. If you fancy coming, but would prefer to stay in a hotel (at an additional cost) and not with a family, this can be arranged. Being able to speak French is by no means obligatory, but enjoying food and wine can be important!" a spokesperson added.

The twinning association held its AGM last Friday evening with the usual supper, wine and quizzes, and it was agreed to increase the annual membership to £15.

Future events will be a Breton 'Fest Noz' evening on July 10, a Safari Supper in October and a Christmas social on December 12. At the end of April, a Clisson rugby team is coming over to challenge local players.

Contacts are Annie Ansari (01446 773845, ansari@celtic.co.uk); Brenda Grove (01446 771645, brendagrove1@me.com) or Peter Sainley Berry (01446 773874, pslb@mac.com).

Future events for your diary in Bonvilston

ON Saturday, March 28, there will be a Children's Easter Workshop at St Mary's Church.

Come along for a free morning of fun preparing for Easter. Make an Easter bonnet, design a stained glass window and decorate an egg. With the telling of the story of Easter and face painting, it's a great opportunity to meet other children from Bonvilston. From 10am until 12.30pm. Refreshments will be available.

On Monday, March 30, Tenebrae at St Mary's Church. Performed by The Cambrian Consort. Performances of Francois Couperin and Trois Lecons de Tendbres. Starting at 7pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection. All welcome.

On Thursday, April 2, Cheese and Wine Evening in The Reading Room. A village celebration with a hint of Easter. With a guitarist and soloist. Doors open at 7pm to be seated by 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50, available from 01446 781230.

Labour in the Vale of Glamorgan

The Labour-led Vale Council is already making a difference, working to reverse the neglect and under-investment of Conservative administrations and cuts from the Conservative coalition in Westminster

Support for Local People

- In the top 4 authorities in Wales for 11-14 year old education.
- Greater support and independence for older residents in new 'Extra Care' accommodation.
- 97% of people felt more independent and safe in their homes as wait for disabled facilities halved.
- Supported services in rural communities such as shops, businesses, meeting spaces and community food growing projects.
- More older people now able to live independently in their own homes through technology and reablement support.
- Use of temporary accommodation for homeless people reduced saving £400k.
- Halved the time taken to re-let Council homes.
- Empty houses brought back into use.

Barry Island's renovated Eastern Promenade is proving popular

Investing in Our Communities

- Continued regeneration of Barry and Barry Island with the Eastern Promenade and historic waterfront pumphouse.
- Delivering the second road to Barry Island years ahead of schedule to address the traffic problems on busy days.
- Upgraded Penarth Esplanade, Pier and Cliff Top car park and resurfaced roads.
- Delivered active travel schemes across the Vale.
- Support for Town Centres including markets in Llantwit Major and Penarth town centres.
- 1200 properties improved in the Castleland Renewal Area.
- 70% of Council homes improved to Welsh Housing Quality Standard so far.
- Developing a pilot 20mph zone in Llandough with local residents.
- Upgrades to many parks across the Vale and investment in the Heritage Coast at Southerndown.
- Rejected the previous administration's draft Local Development Plan (LDP) for a new, more sustainable version.
- Huge investment in education- £48 million Penarth Learning Community delivered and new schools and buildings planned for Llantwit Major and across the Vale.

Jobs for Local People

- Doubled Council apprenticeships.
- Council contracts now include requirements for apprenticeships and local labour.
- Visitors to the Vale increased by 16% to 3.7 million including 100,000 to Council events.
- Over 600 people found jobs through Council Work Programme or Communities First support.
- 14 new and 76 existing rural businesses supported by the Council's rural regeneration team.
- Over 20 young Vale entrepreneurs are setting up new businesses as a result of the Inspiring The Vale Bursaries.

Penarth's Pier and Pavilion - an award winning partnership

Greater Efficiency

- Saved on office and building costs and shared use with others.
- Made savings by working with other Councils.
- Reduced senior management and department structures, saving £400k each year.
- Reduced Cabinet positions from 10 to 6.
- Beat Welsh Government recycling targets at the third lowest cost in Wales.
- Saved £150k on waste collection.
- Filled an extra 2,400 potholes in 2013/14.
- Saved £226k each year through efficient lighting and heating.
- Reduced fuel costs for Vale residents through the Cyd Cymru energy scheme.

Labour making a difference across the Vale

Listening to You

- Set up Vale of Glamorgan Youth Mayor and Cabinet to hear the views of young people.
- Increased opportunities to make your voice heard through Community Cabinet, speaking at Planning Committee and community consultations.
- Increased contact with residents through Vale connect updates, Facebook and Twitter.
- Second best Welsh Council website which includes provision for people with sight loss and literacy difficulties.

Supporting business and tourism along the Vale's Heritage Coast

Promoted by Neil Moore on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Labour Group at 115 High Street Barry CF62 7DT

Awards and announcements for Vale people and communities

ATTENDING the St David's Day Awards last week provided me with the opportunity to congratulate finalists and winners in a range of categories- including 'bravery' and 'sport.'

The amazing achievements of Nicole Cooke MBE were displayed in a short film featuring the crowning moment of her career in 2008, when she became the first person ever to be both World and Olympic road race champion.

It was also good to be able to praise Nicole personally for her tireless campaigning for moral conduct in sport, and the way she has put women's cycling on the map in the UK.

We will always remember how her home village of Wick organised great celebrations following her victory to congratulate Nicole and view her gold medal.

She is now making a tremendous contribution in her career, promoting sport in so many different ways.

I was also very fortunate to spend time with paramedic Tammy Ryan, from Barry Ambulance Station, who saved the life of an elderly lady in 2013 after a house fire.

Being a finalist for the bravery award was fitting for Tammy, who showed incredible courage and bravery.

She has shown how important the role of paramedic is in the Ambulance Service in Wales and continues to make a huge contribution every day in her highly skilled role, which is so important and valued in our NHS in Wales.

An award has also been made to Newydd and Jehu Project Services Ltd for the excellent new housing they have developed in Thompson Street, Barry with £3.1m of Welsh Government Social Housing Grant.

During the construction of these new homes for people in housing need, I visited the construction site and met many local people who had been helped from the community benefits promoted in contracts of this kind.

This included six apprentice posts, 125 weeks of training for local people, three female residents receiving work placements, two local residents provided with temporary carpentry work and one female trainee, Sian Bridge, accepted into full-time work.

I met Sian last Thursday at the official opening of the new development by the Housing Minister, Lesley Griffiths AM and was delighted to hear that she has been promoting the opportunities in the construction industry as a role model for women and an inspiration for children and young people.

During the debate on my Supplementary Budget for 2014/15 I was questioned about the extra funding I have allocated to the NHS in Wales in this financial year. The extra investment amounts to £310m, including £40m for winter pressures. I was clear about the importance of this extra funding for our health service despite the cuts we are facing from the UK Government, which puts pressures on all our public services.

Awarding £240,000 for a 'state of the art' X Ray machine for Barry Hospital was a good bit of news for the Vale last week from the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

Meeting the Chair of the Health Board, Maria Battle, at the Minor Injuries Unit with Coun Chris Elmore, Health Board Member and local councillor, gave me the opportunity to meet the fantastic Emergency Nurse Practitioners who run the Minor Injuries Unit at the Hospital with skill and dedication.

The new X Ray machine will be used by the whole hospital for Out Patients, In Patients and the Minor Injuries Unit -in close collaboration with UHW.

This anouncement will help reassure the people of Barry that we are investing in our hospital by sustaining and updating vital diagnostic equipment as part of a broad range of local health services which are so important to local people, but also alleviate the pressures on UHW and Llandough Hospitals.

The announcement last week by the Health and Social Services Minister, Professor Mark Drakeford, of a new £20m fund, will also reassure the 1,600 severely disabled people in Wales, whose care needs will be devolved to local authorities at the end of June when the existing Independent Living Fund is closed by the UK Government.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

POLICE APPEAL AFTER ATTACK

POLICE in Barry are appealing for witnesses after a man was attacked as he was making his way along Clive Road, Barry.

The victim – a man in his late 20s – was walking along Clive Road around 1.15am on Saturday, February 28, when he was approached by two males and assaulted. During the course of the incident the victim sustained cuts and bruises as well as swelling to his eye.

Police Constable Alison Thomas said: "This was a totally unprovoked attack. Luckily he was not too badly hurt in the incident, but clearly the people responsible need to be found.

"We are keen to speak to anyone who was in the vicinity of the dock steps on Clive Road between 1.15am and 2.30am on Saturday, February 28, who may have information that would help us with our investigation."

Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1500069570. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via crimestoppers-uk.org.give-information.

PACT meetings

CADOC – meet your local officers at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry, on March 19 between 10am-2pm.

COURT – Cuppa with a Copper will be held at the Cafe, the YMCA, Court Road, Barry, on March 19 at 4pm.

ILLTYD – meet your local officers at Cafe No. 5, High Street, Barry, on March 27 between 10.30am and 12 noon.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT public meeting at Gibbonsdown Residents' Board, Coychurch Rise, Barry, on Tuesday, March 31 at 10.30am.

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SOLID ROOF CREATES A CONSERVATORY TO 'LIVIN' WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Conservatories are a great way of adding a light and airy room to any home. However, depending on where the conservatory is positioned and the amount of shade outside, it can let in too much light.

Too much sunlight can mean the conservatory gets very warm in summer and, even on a bright winter day, make it difficult to watch TV, browse an iPad or work on a computer.

At Securahome we are now able to offer an alternative to polycarbonate or glass – a solid roof.

Called a Livin Roof, this system can be fitted to an existing conservatory, so there is no need to change the existing walls and glazing.

Thanks to Kingspan insulation, the Livin Roof is 15 times more thermally efficient than a polycarbonate or old glass roof without solar control, meaning the conservatory will be warmer in winter.

For those who don't enjoy the, all-too-common, pitter-patter of raindrops, the Livin Roof also improves sound insulation compared to polycarbonate and glass.

The inside of the roof is a plaster-boarded to keep an airy and modern 'vaulted ceiling' feel, meaning it can be finished with down-lighters or pendant lights. With the option to add glazed panels to the Livin Roof, it's even possible to keep a view of the heavens!

THE HAWKING CENTRE FEARS OVER FIVE MILE LANE DELAY

TORY regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, visited the Vale Hawking Centre on Five Mile Lane, and heard that the owners are concerned about the uncertainty and delay surrounding the project to improve the road.

Motorists and businesses alike have questioned the need for a new road, with many convinced that modest improvements will suffice.

In a response to a written Assembly question by Mr Davies, the Minister responsible for the project did not rule out seeking a financial contribution from the Vale council to meet the costs of the road improvements.

Mr Davies said: "Having been led to believe that the Welsh Labour Government were to take on financial responsibility for improvements to the Five Mile Lane, it is somewhat concerning to find that Vale ratepayers may now be forced to meet some of the costs.

"Not only does this need to be clarified at the earliest opportunity, it reinforces the need for Vale residents to have a bigger say on the shape and scale of the project.

"In the past, local residents have called into question the need for a new road and if they are to be asked to contribute towards the cost, that view will only be reinforced.

"The continued uncertainty is adding stress to local businesses and, understandably, they are keen to have the issue resolved once and for all. The Hawking Centre is an excellent attraction in the Vale and it was great to meet the family which runs it.

"While everyone is hoping for a busy summer season ahead, the time it has taken to finalise this scheme is making it difficult for local businesses to plan ahead with any confidence. Indeed, the Welsh Government now admits that a contractor may not be appointed before the end of 2015."

FUN DAY FOR YOUNG CARERS

ARE you a young carer? Or do you have a child/children in the family, affected by the care needs of a disabled brother or sister?

Young carers are children and young people under the age of 18 whose lives are affected in some way by caring for another person or helping someone else to provide care.

There are an estimated 700,000 young carers in the UK and a recent survey in the Vale of Glamorgan indicated that one in 12 (8 per cent) of pupils in primary or secondary school could be young carers.

Does this describe you, or someone you know?

This Fun Day for young carers and their families will provide both information and fun activities. (See more details in advertisement below).

Young Carers

Family Fun Day Event

Are you a young carer? Or do you have a child/children in the family affected by the care needs of a disabled sibling? Do you want to know what support is available to you and your family?

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Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre

Station Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1ST

Parents Federation · YMCA

Need more information?

If you require additional support, would like to book a place in the crèche or need transport to the event, please contact Carers Services on 01446 704604 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/carers

Six-week closure for minor injuries unit

BARRY HOSPITAL Minor Injuries Unit is to close for six weeks while a new £240,000 X-Ray machine is installed.

A spokesman for the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board told The GEM that the £240,000 investment was evidence of the board's commitment to the unit.

However, as the majority of patients attending the unit require an x-ray as part of their care – which would then require them to travel to University Hospital of Wales – it has been decided to close the unit for the six-week period.

All other services at the hospital will remain unaffected.

Alice Casey, the chief operating officer for the health board, said: "This is great news and shows how much the health board values the Minor Injuries Unit at Barry Hospital.

"It does mean that there will be a temporary disruption to the service but it will come back much stronger, very shortly.

"This is a significant investment that will mean a better service for Vale residents."

The work began last Monday (March 16).

While the service is temporarily closed, anyone needing care for minor injuries is advised to contact their GP or NHS Direct.

If they require urgent care they should attend one of the emergency units at Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant or University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

There have been a number of issues with the current equipment which has broken down in the past.

Sharon O'Brien, the lead nurse for emergency medicine, said the investment would put an end to those problems.

She said: "We are very sorry for the disruption this work will cause but it is really great news for Barry Hospital.

"It will mean staff will have reliable, state of the art equipment which will help them provide a better service for patients.

"When the unit reopens we will be encouraging more people to make use of it as it is a fantastic service that is able to see and treat minor injuries very, very quickly."

Church service

ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a family service on Sunday, March 22 at 10am.

The service will focus on Jesus' dying on the cross to mark the start of Passiontide, the two-week period leading up to Easter.

Refreshments will be served after the service and creche facilities are available.

All are welcome – for more information, visit allsaintspenarth.org.uk.

MG

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

THE Watoto Children's Choir of orphans bring their 'Oh What Love' tour to Barry on March 24.

Since 1994, Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled the world sharing the plight of Africa's orphaned and vulnerable. Each of the children in the choir has suffered the loss of one or both of their parents, but they have been rescued and now live in a Watoto village in Uganda.

The concert will be held at Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road on March 24 (7pm). Free admission, with a love offering to raise money for their continuing work.

For further information on the Watoto Children's Choir visit www.watoto.com.

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Probus Club with friendship in mind

THE Llantrisant Probus Club (founded 1986)meets at Pontyclun Rugby Club on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am, beginning with an informal chat over tea or coffee.

This is followed by the speaker for the day and the last part of the morning is taken up with club business. Membership comes from over a wide area including Pencoed, Llanharan, Talbot Green. Llantrisant, Pontyclun, Miskin and Tonyrefail.

We are not a fundraising club, but are a fellowship club with a programme of speakers, social events and visits to places of interest.

We welcome all who wish to join us and should you decide to come ,you might be surprised who you will meet!

Speakers for the next three months are: April 21, talk on the Bayeux Tapestry by Sally Maybe; May 19, talk on the Berlin Wall by Jean Harvey and June 16, talk 'Five boys and a pasty' by John Sheen.

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VALE FORUM'S UPDATE ON HEALTH BOARD CHALLENGES

Maria Battle (centre) with members at the meeting.

THE Vale 50+ Strategy Forum executive welcomed Maria Battle, Chair of Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, to their open meeting, who gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Shaping our Future Wellbeing'.

She outlined challenges the UHB faced, such as the area's fastest growing population in Wales, biggest increase in birth rate, and more deprived people than in any other area of Wales.

Maria updated the forum on the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales, which will officially open in May, and the new adult mental health unit – Hafan y Coed 'Haven of Trees', due to be completed at the end of the year.

There was discussion on the future use of Barry Hospital, with suggestions ranging from convalescent care prior to discharge, to information hub for visitors.

For more information on the Vale 50+ Strategy forum, contact John Porter, Older People's Coordinator VOGC on 01446 709779, or email at jporter@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (01656 725219)

Bruno not just a pretty face

BRUNO is a six-year-old Yorkshire Terrier and a lovely little chap, but needs an owner who will look beyond his cute appearance!

He is very affectionate, but will need slow introductions to his new family. He has always lived with other dogs, and is much more confident with a friend, so he must live with a dog already in the home.

This dog would need to be laid back, as Bruno is not always great at sharing his toys! He will need an experienced owner who can continue with his muzzle training, which will be a requirement for trips to the vets.

Bruno would suit a quiet home with children over the ages of 14 years. He loves to explore new things and enjoys his walks, but then he would like nothing more than getting back and having a nap in front of the fire!

Bruno is a real sweetie for someone who will understand him, but if he's not for you, we have lots of other lovely dogs looking for homes. Call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we're open 12-4pm every day except Wednesday.

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Celebrity Tug-of-War raises £32,495 for Barnardo's Cymru

THE High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Liz Singer, pulled out all the stops to support a charity close to her heart recently.

Having been a volunteer fundraiser for Barnardo's for over 40 years, Liz roped in local companies and a number of familiar faces to take part in the High Sheriff's Celebrity Tug-of-War in aid of the charity chosen during her year of office.

It was an invitation that certainly pulled on the heart-strings of participants and spectators, as the event in the grounds of Pencoed College raised an impressive £32,495.08.

Among the well-known names who took up the slack at the event were Derek Brockway, Sue Charles, Roy Noble, Ryan Jones, Jamie Baulch and Tom Shanklyn. Master of ceremonies was Wynne Evans, the legendary Carmarthen-born tenor and Welsh National Opera principal, who is also the famous face and voice of GoCompare.com.

"Barnardo's Cymru helps thousands of people in Wales each year and it's a privilege to lend our support to such a worthwhile cause," said Liz. "The Celebrity Tug of War exceeded all our expectations and we were thrilled with how people got behind it to raise such a great amount and I'd like to extend a big thank you to those that made the event such a success."

The Sinclair Group supported the day with its own celebrity team and provided its Mercedes-Benz of Bridgend showroom as the venue for the cheque presentation to Yvonne Rogers, Director of Barnardo's Cymru.

"As a charit, we rely on voluntary funds for us to remain independent – so donations such as this from the High Sheriff's Committee are essential for us to carry on helping disadvantaged children and young people in Wales," explained Yvonne.

"We're very grateful for the support from the High Sheriff's Committee and thank everyone who took part in what was an excellent day and contributed to raising such a fantastic amount for Barnardo's Cymru."

The impressive fundraising total will enable Barnardo's Cymru to continue its work with vulnerable children, young people, families and communities, the charity dedicated to helping these people build a better future.

Currently, Barnardo's Cymru operates 88 invaluable projects across Wales, which require £3 million each year to keep operating.

KATY MILLS

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Leanne emphasised: "We have a wide range of styles available to view at our client's homes. This is a unique opportunity to talk to our customers about their experience and see for themselves the quality of our work."

Dean added: "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. There is no need to concern yourself with architects, planning or building control as this is all part of the package. The only planning we want you to worry about is where to put your sofa – but we can even help with that too!"

If you are thinking of extending your home, but want something different and affordable, call Dean or Leanne on 01446 746353 to discuss how a Vale Orangeries orangery can work for the way you live.

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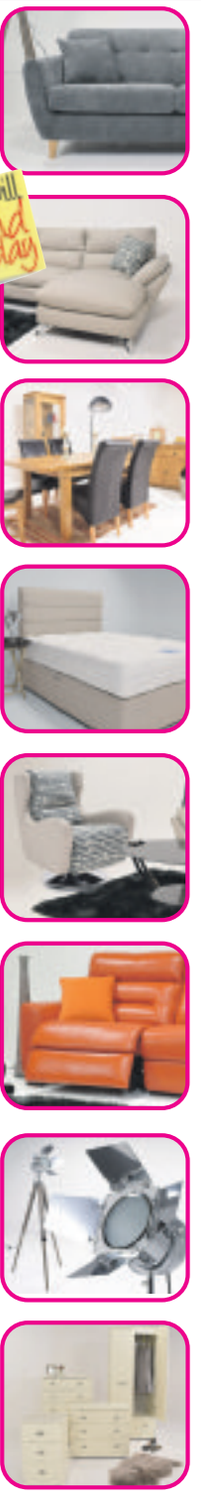

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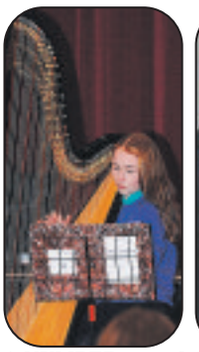

A NUMBER of representatives from schools and organisations across Wales attended an event hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council on March 6 to celebrate International Women's Day.

At the Memorial Hall, Barry, they heard inspirational speakers and celebrated achievements of women across the world.

Speakers included Sport Wales' chief executive Sarah Powell, the first woman to hold the position in the organisation, Cathy Kennedy from Chwarae Teg, currently co-ordinating the Diversity in Democracy project for Welsh Government, Baroness Anita Gale of Blaenrhondda and Lowri Jones from the organisation Women in Public Life.

The event included entertainment from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg students and 'Music in the Vale' harpist, Anwen Fardy.

Coun Bronwen Brooks, Vale Council cabinet member and diversity and domestic violence champion outlined the importance of gender equality in the council.

She said: "As a large public sector employer in the Vale, the council is aware of its role to promote best practice in terms of women's rights and to work hard to achieve real equality of opportunity.

"It is a central pillar of our employment practice that decisions are made on the absolute basis of merit and skill and nothing else."

New chair of governors rejoins Atlantic College

UWC Atlantic College, based at St Donat's, has announced the appointment of economist Professor Jonathan Michie as chair of its board of governors.

Professor Michie has served as president of Kellogg College for the past seven years, and during that time it has grown to become the University of Oxford's largest and most international graduate college.

He will replace Stephen Cox on July 1 – the former executive director of the Royal Society, whose five-year tenure saw the founding college of the United World College movement celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Professor Michie, said: "It is an honour to be re-joining the UWC Atlantic College community as chair of the board of governors. My time as a student at the college has served as the foundation of my academic and professional career."

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Out and About with The GEM

Still Alice an inspiring and heartbreaking story

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

WHEN Julianne Moore took to the stage to pick up the Oscar for best actress last month, few would have complained that the always watchable actress finally had her hands on the golden statue after numerous nominations and countless terrific performances.

The film she won the award for, *Still Alice*, sees her play the titular Alice, a linguistics professor who is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease; the diagnosis sees her life change irrevocably, as her life is turned upside down and her bond with her family (husband Alec Baldwin and children Kate Bosworth, Kristen Stewart and Shane McRae) is tested...

It's sad to report that the co-director and co-writer of *Still Alice*, Richard Glatzer, passed away last week, having battled against ALS.

Yet for a man who fought so hard against the hand dealt to him, *Still Alice* is a glowing, powerful and emotional testament to those whose lives are altered by illness.

Dealing with the subject matter of Alzheimer's Disease without sugarcoating it or attempting to sentimentalise it, the film is stunning, a piece of work whose frank and honest approach truly hits home.

The crowning achievement is undoubtedly Julianne Moore's lead performance, which rightly resulted in Oscar glory; yet even had it not been adorned, it's a brave and raw turn, as Alice sees her life slowly unravelling as the disease slowly takes control of her.

It's a performance of understated power from Moore, her intelligent linguistics professor being cruelly struck down with cold, slow precision, as her symptoms run from the mundane (forgetting a key word of her presentation) to the severe and upsetting (forgetting the names of her daughters, and even not knowing who they are).

It's the sort of material that handled incorrectly could slip into mawkishness, but Moore takes you through the stages of Alice's descent in stark detail, at no point do you feel led by the performance, rather the performance subtly guides you and connects with you on a personal level; it's a moving, incredible turn.

It is a film very much led from the front, but the performances surrounding Moore are all impressive as the family struggle to come to terms (or flat out fail to come to terms) with the condition, especially given that there is a 50/50 chance the disease can strike Alice's children.

Alec Baldwin's turn as the husband is quietly impressive, burrowing deeper into his career as Alice's diminishes, while Kate Bosworth as the shrewish daughter is cold yet not wholly unfeeling.

It's Kristen Stewart's turn that shines brightest, as the hint of disconnect between mother and daughter gives way to rapprochement and acceptance.

That these characters remain relatable and their responses honest is a credit to both Richard Glatzer and fellow co-writer/co-director Wash Westmoreland, whose 'matter of fact' approach to telling the story takes away any of the histrionics or overly dramatic moments; it feels real, and the pair's directorial approach is similarly grounded, the camera feeling like a fly on the wall capturing everything.

The only time they ever resort to anything overly tricky, it is used purely to show Alice's mental deterioration, the camera spinning around her or blurring. That the pair shepherded this to the big screen (it's based on a novel by Lisa Genova) is clear to see given how caring and subtle they are with the material.

As the film reaches its climax (which, like real life, ends on a sombre and haunting note), you feel a deep connection to the character, and, perhaps importantly, feel not just sympathy but also empathy that such a cruel disease can have such terrible ramifications.

That it is handled with such maturity means that *Still Alice* is moving yet affirming, a heartbreaking and inspiring film that cannot help but get under your skin.

VERDICT: Julianne Moore's tour-de-force performance is a highlight, but *Still Alice* is more than just a great lead performance. The rest of the cast impress, and the late Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland do a sterling job directing and adapting the source material in what is a raw, unflinching look at Alzheimer's Disease. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iris* (2001), *The Theory of Everything* (2015).

What's on at the Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next film for this season is *My Old Lady* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, March 26 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

This comedy-drama stars Kevin Kline as Mathias Gold who inherits an apartment in France from his late father. He travels to Paris where he discovers that the apartment comes with a tenant, Mathilde Girard (Maggie Smith), who is allowed to stay there for life, rent-free.

Mathias tries every which way to sell the flat, but is frustrated by Mathilde's daughter Chloe (Kristin Scott Thomas).

Doors open 7pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D870:

- **£2,000:** 114621 .
- **The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 806491, 813026, 282514, 107366, 841470, 330452, 934015, 905739, 700326, 707845, 187482, 256042, 911968, 197820, 769261, 632375, 494496, 604199, 133800, 000213.
- **£5:** 169611, 152025, 287240, 619577, 588890, 825271, 853893, 407308, 543941, 895756, 860807, 933776, 940953, 813827, 835206, 616568, 866652, 417412, 854437, 383169, 384121, 118747, 948447, 958683, 256103, 509263, 318836, 550336, 703618, 512603, 770939, 332751, 203886, 707579, 314263, 357855, 522534, 608840, 266708, 197816, 365678, 755934, 412910, 293535, 262897, 201490, 355334, 518992, 628700, 659034, 677953, 687148, 202562, 410094, 462244, 000844, 001720, 001533, 000892, 001044.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

What's on and where in your area...

Support for Tenovus

A TENOVUS Cancer Care quiz night takes place on Friday, March 20 at 7.30pm.

Raffle, bar and light refreshments; £6 per person, tables of six at Barry Athletics Club, Paget Road, Barry Island. All are welcome.

There will be a coffee morning in aid of Tenovus on Saturday, March 28 from 10am to 12 noon in Romilly Bowls Club, Barry. Tickets £2, pay at the door; hot cross buns and tea; raffle and some stalls. All are welcome.

Come and Sing day

TABERNACL Music Society is calling on local choirs and singers to join a Come and Sing day on Saturday, March 21 at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend in Faure's *Requiem*, parts of the Mozart *Requiem* and other works.

For full details, contact the secretary on 07974 765578.

Forces help

SSAFA provides lifelong support for our forces veterans and their families.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on March 24 (10am to 12 midday); no appointment needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Gardener's talk

THE Llantwit Major Horticultural Society's monthly meeting on March 25 includes Grow Better Vegetables by Companion Planting, an illustrated talk by Andrew Teague at 7.30pm in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

He is an experienced gardener at Tredegar House in Newport, and will explain how decorative plants, mixed in with vegetables, can help combat pest and disease. All are welcome.

The hall is situated on the Boverton Road behind the library, at the back of the Rugby Club car park. Admission is free.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, March 25 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, March 26, at 10am, 'To Cowbridge and beyond', (7-8 miles), starting at the Cross Inn car park, Llanblethian.

On Sunday, March 29 at 2pm, 'Start of Spring', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Also on March 29 at 2pm, 'Hare of the Dog', starting at Cowbridge Town Hall car park.

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall and will be a Gardener's Question Time, with a panel of local experts. New members welcome.

Rotary car boot sale

THE Rotary Club of Cowbridge will be holding its popular car boot sales commencing on April 12.

The venue is the town hall car park. Entry is £6 per car and all proceeds go to our wide range of charity support. Sales commence at 8.30am but sellers are welcome earlier.

The club also runs a Rotary table – again all proceeds to charity. We badly need new stock. If you are de-cluttering, downsizing or have any unwanted gifts, we would be pleased to collect. Contact Andrew Lane on 01446 772068.

Art displays

GILES Gallery of Pontyclun will hold an exhibition by Welsh artist, Elizabeth Hopkin, from April 4-25.

On May 9–30, local artists Geoff Dawson and Emlyn Hole, are holding a joint exhibition.

The Giles Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm, and Wednesday and Thursday until 8.30pm.

Giles Gallery is at The Old Methodist Church, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun CF72 9EG, telephone 01443 228638 or 07879 035921.

Film company is on lookout for local talent

THE Bafta award winning company It's My Shout Productions, based in Pencoed, is back this year, giving people from different backgrounds the chance to work in film and television.

The company, which works alongside the BBC and S4C, also runs Bridgend Youth Theatre, who recently finished their critically-acclaimed production of *Jekyll and Hyde*. Over the past 14 years, It's My Shout has been giving opportunities all over Wales both in front of and behind the camera.

Its alumni include 'White Queen' and 'Cilla' star, Aneurin Barnard.

This year, It's My Shout is coming to Porthcawl to get the community involved and will be launching its 2015 film scheme at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm.

To be involved in this years' films, whether in front of or behind the camera, whatever age and whatever background, come along to find out more at the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, March 24, at 7pm.

Visit www.itsmyshout.co.uk for more details.

Rotary music finals take place this Saturday

THE Rotary District 1150 final of the Young Musician Competition will be held at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on Saturday, March 21.

The vocal competition starts at 3pm and the instrumental competition at 7pm, and members of the public are welcome.

Two sixth form pupils from Cowbridge Comprehensive School will be competing. Verity Belle Atkinson will compete in the vocal competition and Catrin Howells, a clarinettist, will be competing in the instrumental final.

Each competition will have a total of eight young musicians.

Young Musician is open to young people aged 11 to 17, to give them experience of performing music on a public stage. It aims to showcase their musical talent and to give impartial criticism and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators.

Each competitor plays a minimum of two pieces of contrasting style, with a total performance time not exceeding 10 minutes.

There are two categories, solo instrumental and solo vocalist.

District 1150 winners will go on to the regional finals, held this year in Bristol Grammar School on April 19.

Each region comprises of four Rotary Districts. The culmination for both competitions is the RIBI final on May 16 at Darwen Vale High School, Blackburn, Lancashire.

Competitors in the final are all winners already – having been selected from club and area heats held previously.

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Local young performers chase West End dreams!

Stagecoach's Ghost troupe is off to perform in London's West End!

YOUNG performers from Bridgend and the Vale will be pursuing their West End dreams at Her Majesty's Theatre in London this weekend.

On Sunday, March 22, students from Stagecoach Theatre Arts School in Bridgend and Cowbridge will be giving a show-stopping performance based on the musical *Ghost* at the iconic West End theatre.

Students from 17 Stagecoach schools around the country will take to the stage, treating the audience to a range of theatrical and musical pieces.

Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds said: "So much hard work has gone into making this show a success! Our teachers and students have created an incredible performance piece and we couldn't be more proud of them.

"Our students have had the opportunity to perform at Her Majesty's theatre on three previous occasion and also at the Shaftsbury Theatre. It's wonderful that children from Bridgend and the Vale will once again perform in the heart of London's West End."

Local school benefits from book donation

JENNER Park pupils were very excited to receive a donation of hundreds of books from Ropehurst Ltd. With the help of Kitley Construction the school managed to get them into the classroom ready for use.

The pupils and staff would like to say thank you for the kind donation of exercise books.

An expert guide to the antiques trade

LLANBLETHIAN WI NEWS

OUR very own antiques dealer, Mr Phillip Havard, from the High Street in Cowbridge was our presenter this month.

He led us into the fascinating world of what is an antique, what is a desirable object, and what lies in the eye of the beholder.

Mr Havard presented us with eight objects. The remit was "What is it? What date is it? How much is it?"

This proved to be a worthwhile exercise, because at a stroke, it proved just how inventive our members are. It was fun bustling around trying to date and price these objects, it also proved how much knowledge is required to buy or sell antiques, and how little knowledge we possessed even after being brainwashed with antique programmes on TV.

Suffice to say, no-one was offered employment at Havard & Havard!

Fashion and style is as relevant in antiques as it is any other commodity.

The times are changing and many people are not so concerned these days with originality, but more with how it looks and what it can be used for. So go forth and seek your antiques, or maybe fake antiques!

The talk was fascinating with great insight. Mr Havard knows his subject well but has a refreshing open mindedness which covered the range from antiques, which are something over 100 years old, to Maskreys and Ikea, which in his opinion can be very inventive.

It was great to have someone from our High Street to come and speak to us.

If you feel you would like to join us, we meet the second Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in Llanblethian Church Hall – see you there.

VG

X-FACTOR SINGERS OFFER THEIR HELP TO TY HAFAN

CHILDREN and families supported by Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales, were treated to an X-tra special surprise when they met X Factor winner Ben Haenow and his fellow contestants recently.

There were plenty of smiles all round at the hospice in Sully as Stereo Kicks, Jay James, Only The Young, Fleur East, Lauren Platt, Andrea Faustini and Stevi Richie spent quality time with the families.

The stars took time out of their current tour to visit Tŷ Hafan and even treated families to an impromptu sing-along which was enjoyed by all!

Mum Natalie Boggis, from Aberdare, said: "Rhys and Carys had such an amazing time and were so pleased to have met them. They are all such lovely people and Carys made great friends with Lauren and wouldn't leave her side all afternoon!"

Jay James enjoyed the afternoon and later tweeted: "A beautiful day with the children, parents and staff of @tyhafan and @Tog4ShortLives! Amazing place! Gives real perspective and inspiration xx."

The singers later performed at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena for the X Factor Live tour. The visit was organised by Together for Short Lives, the UK charity for all children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions.

Proceeds from the sales of Ben Haenow's X Factor winner's single will be donated to Together for Short Lives and will benefit Tŷ Hafan, along with other children's hospice and palliative care services across the UK.

Penybont team shine in league

MOTHERING Sunday saw Penybont disabled team travel to Worcester to take part in 'The Three Counties' Ability Counts League'.

With three league games and a cup game the Bridgend boys had their work cut out.

First up we faced last season's champions Hereford in a hard fought battle but our side soon came out on top, winning 4-2. The second game was against Worcester B, and goals flew in from most of the team as they destroyed them 9-0.

The last league game we played was against Worcester A who are currently in second place. After a good start our team took their eye off the ball but narrowly won 4-3. These three wins have now taken us to joint second in the league.

After a great result in the league it was a bit disappointing losing 3-1 in the semi-final playoff against Telford, who are also top of the league.

The goals came from C Baker, G Stephens, L Thomas, A Jones, P Burrows, R Thurling and L Roche.

KH

Road bridge repair leads to charity ride cancellation

A CHARITY bike ride has been cancelled due to a bridge closure in the Vale.

The Barnardo's fundraising team has announced the cancellation of this year's 'On your Bike for Barnardo's,' scheduled to take place in May.

Barnardo's will be looking to re-schedule the event in 2016.

Kate Mitchell, head of events at Barnardo's, said: "We have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event as no suitable alternative route could be found. The replacement of the ageing road bridge between Ewenny and St Bride's Major on the B4265 will be long term and the safety of participants is paramount.

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused but would like to reassure our supporters and long term participants in the event that it will be business as usual in 2016."

On your bike for Barnardo's takes place along a 38 mile route through the Vale. Over 360 people took part last year and raised over £10,000 for Barnardo's work in Wales. The event has raised over half a million pounds since it began 34 years ago.

Charity show at Penarth Paget Rooms

THE 'Not so Royal variety show' takes place at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on Thursday, April 1. The event is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and Mind. Performances start at 7.30pm.

The acts include: Lady Gaga tribute and impersonator Donna Marie; Frankie Roma; Aubrey Parsons; Rachel Roberts, Shirley Bassey tribute; Rod Stevens, hypnotist; Emily Langford and Rebekah West.

Compere for the evening is the talented Helen Enser Morgan.

General admission tickets (tier) are £10, VIP tickets £15; glass of bubbly on arrival and reserved seating in main hall; VIP box £80.

Tickets on sale now – online https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/150806 or call 07788 753 753.

AGE CONNECTS SPRING FAIR

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a spring fair at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on March 26 at 10am and admission is free. All proceeds are for The Ageing Well project in Barry.

NATIONAL PET MONTH & RURAL LIFE IN THE VALE

Rhian of Petherton Vets with Flossie and Flynn, her two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

As the country's population continues to grow…

The UK's lack of self-sufficiency in food could be a long term problem

A new report published by the NFU has revealed disturbing new figures relating to the UK's self-sufficiency in food.

It states that at current rates, just 53 per cent of the nation's food needs will be produced from home farms in the next 25 years, with potential serious implications for the British economy, food security and employment.

The population is expected to boom over the coming decades and there could be around 13 million extra mouths in the UK by the time the country's self-sufficiency in home-grown food is predicted to hit dwindling new lows.

Currently, the figure stands at 60 per cent – following a 30-year downward spiral. The NFU says action is needed now, and from successive governments, to reverse this current negative trend.

The report comes at a time when the public is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of British food and farming. New YouGov figures show that 85 per cent of the population want to see supermarkets selling more food from British farms – an increase from 79 per cent in 2014.

NFU President Meurig Raymond said: "The report highlights the causes of the decline in self-sufficiency, including conflicting direction on European and UK farm policy; the legacy of underinvestment in publicly funded research and development; poorly crafted regulation, and weak bargaining power within the food chain. Our report focuses very clearly on what needs to be done to reverse this trend.

"The stark choice for the next government is whether to trust the nation's food security to volatile world markets or to back British farming and reverse the worrying trend in food production.

"I know what I want to happen. I want to see a robust plan for increasing the productive potential of farming, stimulating investment and ensuring that the drive to increase British food production is at the heart of every government department."

NFU Deputy President Minette Batters said: "The important thing to remember about self-sufficiency is that it is a yardstick for measuring how competitive we are and how much we produce.

"It doesn't mean limiting or reducing exports; it means capitalising on what we are already good at and being able to provide great British food to shoppers and food procurers throughout Britain. We know 85 per cent of the public have said they want to see more British food on the shelves.

"In a volatile world, it's really important for a small island nation to prioritise food security. British food should be at the heart of government. Get friends and family to make their voices heard by casting a vote for British food. To get involved, I'd ask people to visit *www.votebritishfood.com*."

The NFU is the voice of British farming and its website is: http://www.nfuonline.com/

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NATIONAL PET MONTH & RURAL LIFE IN THE VALE

Happy pets need safe, clean beds

As National Pet Month approaches, ACE Gentle gives top tips on keeping pet beds stain and odour-free

Left alone, dirt, grime, hair and slobber will gradually build up on a pet's bedding, so it should be something that is washed regularly to keep animals healthy, happy and tick free.

Removing dirt and odours can often be tricky, but to tie in with National Pet Month in April, ACE Gentle, one of the leading stain removers and detergent boosters on the market, is giving a helping hand with their top tips.

Kevin Day, from Robinson Young, UK distributor for ACE, commented: "Dogs and cats in particular are adventurous and curious animals, who pick up plenty of dirt which is transferred on to their bedding.

"Therefore, it's important that it's washed regularly. ACE is particularly effective at removing odours and muddy stains from bedding and because of its gentle formula, pet owners can be assured that it is animal friendly."

More information about ACE is available from www.acecleanuk.co.uk.

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Quality pays off for new cattery

INVESTING in high-quality facilities when you start a new business can be a gamble – but it is one that has paid off for Amanda Williams at the Aderyn Cattery, Rhoose.

Since opening just 10 months ago, more than 300 cats have spent quality time in their temporary home, enjoying being pampered while their owners could log on from anywhere in the world and check on their pet's wellbeing via the cattery's CCTV cameras.

Amanda's all-round knowledge of cats' requirements means that owners can be sure their feline friend is well cared for – and is probably eating better than they are, thanks to Amanda's varied menu, which even caters for diabetic cats!

Aderyn Cattery still has a few places left over the coming months so there is still time to see just what's on offer there, but don't leave it too late!

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'Vale Inclusive Plan' all year care for your pet

AS the days become longer and the winter nights become shorter, we pet owners look forward to those early morning walks without a torch and poo bag held in frosty gloved hands; or if a feline fancier, bringing an end to those dark winter evenings chasing Moggy around the garden, luring her to come inside with a 'Dreamie' or two before the night sets in.

Spring is a time of year where nature comes to life but unfortunately it is not just those daffodils in your flower bed, it is also those creepy crawlies lying dormant, waiting to come to life and take advantage of these changes in the season, a perfect chance for your pet to become a host.

Dog and cat owners (small furry creatures owners too) need to be wary of fleas starting to make an appearance now as these days get warmer.

Don't wait for a problem to develop, make sure you are speaking to your vet about preventative health care. Trust me, it will cost you many times more to treat a problem if it establishes versus preventative care, not to mention the distress for your pet and the hassle of treating an entire house for flea larvae and eggs.

Most flea treatments are topical i.e. they are in the form of easy to apply pipettes that squirt on to the skin of your pet and act to prevent flea burdens developing, and kill any existing populations.

Fleas can cause problems all year round, so its not just spring and summer that you need to treat. The same applies to worming. Ask your vet about parasite treatments and what you can do to avoid your pet developing a parasite problem.

The basics, whether cat or dog, are regular flea treatment all year round (most applications are monthly), round and tape worm treatment every three months and also ask about other 'at risk' treatments available for your area such as ticks and lungworm.

Here at the Vale we have our own preventative health care plan called the 'Vale Inclusive Plan' or 'VIP'.

We also cover for the deadly viruses within this plan (i.e. your annual booster vaccinations) but I can tell you more about the importance of vaccinations next time.

If you need more information, don't search online, just ask your vet – that's what we are here for. Telephone 01446 739739 for further information.

Richard Williams BVSc BSc MRCVS (owner of the Vale Veterinary Centre, Barry.)

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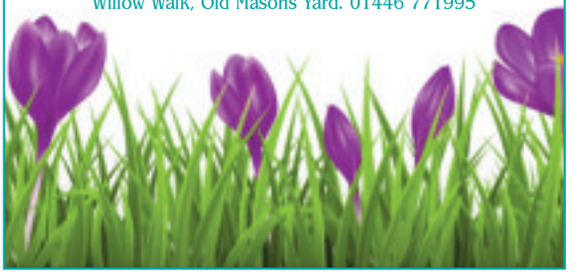


Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Mr Danter's funfair deserves a fair chance'

IN last week's GEM, Mr Glyn Pooley gave four reasons against the reinstatement of the fairground on Barry Island.

Having read his letter, it is difficult to understand his reasons against the return of the fair.

What infrastructure does Mr Pooley want? There are two large car parks and a coach park for the traffic and a train station; there is no knock-on effect throughout the whole town, because the traffic would exit the island as it always has – up Ship Hill, through Park Crescent and Pontypridd Road, then straight out of Barry.

With the completion of the new link road, Barry Island residents will have a second exit to use during high season traffic. If the council would reopen Barrack Hill instead of keeping it for private use – there would be a third exit off the island.

Increased noise and disruption? Barry Island is a 'tourist resort' – fun, noise and people usually accompany those two words. People who wish to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life usually retreat to Porthkerry Park – now that really is a place of 'tranquility'.

He states the return of the fair and its "proximity to a large supermarket and up to 2,000 new dwellings: placing it at the centre of a mainly residential area".

How can it be at the centre? The new housing development is at the Waterfront.

Overdevelopment? Yes, Mr Pooley is correct with this point but he's not directing it at the right subject, i.e. Nell's Point, the worst development in the history of Barry. Residential houses were built on Nell's Point against the wishes of Barrians.

These houses were misplaced, unattractive, lacking in good proportion and sitting on land that was given to the people of Barry for leisure pursuits. The legality of the sale of the land has been disputed in the past and has still not been resolved to the satisfaction of Barrians.

Allow Mr Danter to bring back the fair, the fun and vibrancy, the hustle and bustle. If he can make it viable, it will bring more employment; it will boost the local businesses and bring more visitors to Barry Island. If he fails, it will be at his own cost – but at least give him a chance.

H Spierling (artist), Barry.

Scarce homes are not new

I HAVE recently been sent a copy of The GEM and refer to a letter from M Davies regarding affordable housing.

It may be of interest that in Llanblethian and Cowbridge Parish Magazine of June 1937, the Rev Gilbert Williams comments: "What a pity that young people have to settle down elsewhere due to the scarcity of houses. Builders appear blind to the possibilities of Cowbridge and district."

It would appear that times have not changed in 78 years.

Having lived in Cowbridge and attended Westgate School for some years, it is always good to catch up with local news via The GEM.

David James, Ammanford.

'My family is not better off'

WITH reference to Mrs LJ Ware's letter 'Tory plan is working', I read her facts with interest, but feel I must comment.

Both my partner and I work for charities; after eight years of not even a cost of living rise, my employers were able to give me a 2 per cent rise – not because of the economy, but because we have been ingenious, sparing and hard working.

My partner's company is still unable to commit to a rise, because of the demands of tendering and cuts to budgets to important services.

The family tax credit threshold cuts also hurt us and other working people struggling to get by.

The drop in unemployment leaves me wondering if more people have jobs, or have more people lost their benefits and are now relying on foodbanks and charity from friends and family.

Tax cuts will always benefit those on higher wages, obviously.

Mrs Ware, I can assure you this household is not feeling the benefit of a Conservative government; in fact, the last time I was this badly-off was during the last Conservative period in power.

Sue Eldridge, Barry.

Developers were not 'let off' in Colwinston

YOUR correspondent (March 12, page 18) writing about the percentage of social housing in a new development for Colwinston has missed out two crucial pieces of information:

The waiting list for social housing in Colwinston is fairly small; it is less than 35 per cent of the development in question. The need for social housing in Colwinston will be met by the 25 per cent of the development earmarked as social housing.

The developer was not let off the usual requirement for 35 per cent in each new development because a cash sum equivalent to 10 per cent of the development was required in the planning approval. This funding will be used to build social housing elsewhere in the Vale.

The council can tot up its percentages, and it did so. Your correspondent should ensure he or she has all the facts before criticising the drive for more affordable homes.

John Drysdale, Vale of Glamorgan Councillor.

'Homes building should be spread'

AS someone who has grown up and lived in Barry, I find it highly patronising that people have been suggesting through The GEM letters pages that the majority of house building in the Vale should be in Barry.

This smacks of elitism/parochialism and is also highly delusional.

As someone who has worked in housing, I know that house building needs to be spread, and not just centred in one specific geographical location.

It is all very well advocating house-building in another town but when it may infiltrate their cosy little clans, the proverbial drawbridge is drawn up.

Barry does need housing, but so do other towns in the Vale and I think it would be highly naïve for anyone to think they are immune to this.

James Brown, Barry.

'People power can be effective'

I WAS extremely disappointed to be informed that the Vale Council has decided to ignore the representations of the local community and earmarked Rhoose Library for transfer to 'community management' (which is a euphemism for downgrade).

Readers will now be aware that the Labour cabinet, propped up by Llantwit First, has voted on the proposal and rubber-stamped the plans. If a third party to run the library is not found by May 18, the library faces closure: a devastating blow to the local residents who have fought so hard to save the beloved service.

Libraries are not just about making books available and fostering a love of reading, they are social and cultural community hubs.

These plans to downgrade provision in the Vale are extremely concerning and I would urge local communities to continue to fight until the very last library has been downgraded or closed.

The experience in Cardiff proves that it's never too late. Pressure from local campaigners and opposition parties ultimately led to an 11th hour u-turn by the Labour-run Cardiff council, and we need to force Coun Neil Moore and his colleagues to do the same here.

'People power' can be effective and Labour in the Vale will never be forgiven if these plans go through!

Andrew RT Davies, Conservative regional AM, South Wales Central.

Plaid put Welsh interests first

I WOULD like to congratulate Ian Johnson on his sincere and downright honest contribution to the fracking debate earlier this week in Cowbridge.

I firmly belive his stance was true and he was the only one you could honestly believe would follow his party line.

Plaid Cymru in the Vale are in safe hands after his firm opposition. I believe that Plaid are the party to ensure Welsh interests come first.

Branwen Dafydd (Plaid Cymru member), Cowbridge.

Town must grow

I READ the letter from David Betts with interest, and a slightly disturbing letter it was!

When I was growing up in the 1970s, I spent many happy times in Cowbridge, visiting family (my uncle was the local postman whose death was front page news in The GEM). They were a native Cowbridge family.

I recall walking with my cousins along the St Athan road when there were no houses, and when returning to Wales after living abroad being disturbed when I saw the development that is Brookfield Park Road.

I remember speaking to my uncle (who was born in The Limes) about this, and recall him saying that people were not happy when they built the council houses in Cowbridge. A growing town is a fact of life, and people have to live with it.

Cowbridge has to grow, or Cowbridge ends up being a 'rich ghetto' for the likes of people who can retire 'in their 40s', yet Cowbridge-born people cannot afford to.

Perhaps the opponents should put the good of all the people of Cowbridge first, and not just the ones with lots of money!

There are many Cowbridge people who would love to smell the roses, yet cannot afford to!

Michael Alan Cridland, St Athan

Barry needs its countryside too!

WE are writing in response to an article that was published last week, written by Mr and Mrs Giles Betts, from Cowbridge.

We cannot decide whether this article is genuine or a wind up.

If it is genuine, then it is the most arrogant, provocative, snobbish article we have ever read. We in Barry also deserve to have our countryside protected.

Mr and Mrs Giles Betts state that houses should be built in Barry and not Cowbridge, why? They do not give any reasons to support their argument.

Barry and other towns/villages in the western Vale have and continue to take more than their fair share of housing, without any associated improvements to the infrastructure and services. It is a problem for all of us.

Cowbridge is an affluent area with high property prices where residents' offspring find it difficult to purchase a home in the town where they grew up. Why then would anybody deny them this opportunity?

Debra and Frank Cleland, Barry.

'Put local horror top of the agenda'

ONGOING EFFORTS to upgrade the Barry Island esplanade are welcome, but the derelict site which was formerly one of the UK's best known funfairs, blights any piecemeal improvements.

Notwithstanding wrangling between the owners of the site, the Barry Island Property Company, the Vale Council, and a Midlands amusements entrepreneur, it must surely be the case that the site constitutes a public amenity (it has been since at least the beginning of the last century); and as such it behoves the powers that be to enforce its restoration to its original purpose.

If the Welsh Assembly finds itself unable to grant the funds, there is such a thing as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Is not Barry Island part of our national heritage? Certainly, the late great Gwyn Thomas would have deemed it such.

In the 1990s, I was instrumental in raising £4m from the HLF to build an art gallery in West Sussex (net cost approximately £10m). This was achieved in a town with half the population of Barry.

When the then local council here in Barry was deliberately allowing the Cold Knap swimming pool, with its Art Deco 'chalets', to sink into disrepair, I was consulted by the Twentieth Century Society.

We failed to save it. The result is a useless, ugly field. If the Barry Island fiasco persists, we will end up with yet another hideous housing estate.

I despair of any local council and devolved Assembly incapable of getting its planning and fundraising act together. If this local horror is not at the top of the agenda of Alun Cairns MP and AM Jane Hutt, then what is?

Andrew Gibbon-Williams, Barry.

'Cemetery Approach begs some questions'

THE Save Cemetery Approach Action Group has been monitoring events since the developer withdrew from the public inquiry in 1998.

Early in 1999, the group first drew the Vale Council's attention to its responsibilities under Paragraph 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906.

The Act says that a local authority should hold and administer the open space in trust to allow, and with a view to, the enjoyment thereof by the public as an open space, and maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

We have also written to the council on several occasions over the last seven years stressing the importance of involving and working with the community.

We were pleased with the pre-election promises to do something about this special area in 2012; very disappointed with the lack of engagement with the community; pleased with the proposed centenary field proposal and, following my question at a council meeting, content with the promise to clear the site.

However, we are puzzled with the seemingly abortive grant application and the half-hearted attempt to clear the grounds.

Members of the action group have sought information through the Freedom of Information Act; tried to clarify the status of the grant application by writing to the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant providers, and are still seeking to clarify the latest situation with that application.

The time has come for the council to publicly and clearly state what on earth is going on by answering the following questions.

Why hasn't the council fully engaged the public in the future of this loved open space?

Why has the council failed to live up to its responsibilities under the Open Spaces Act?

Why does the open space still look like a dumping ground?

Why was there such a delay with the grant application?

What is the problem with the apparent failure of the grant application?

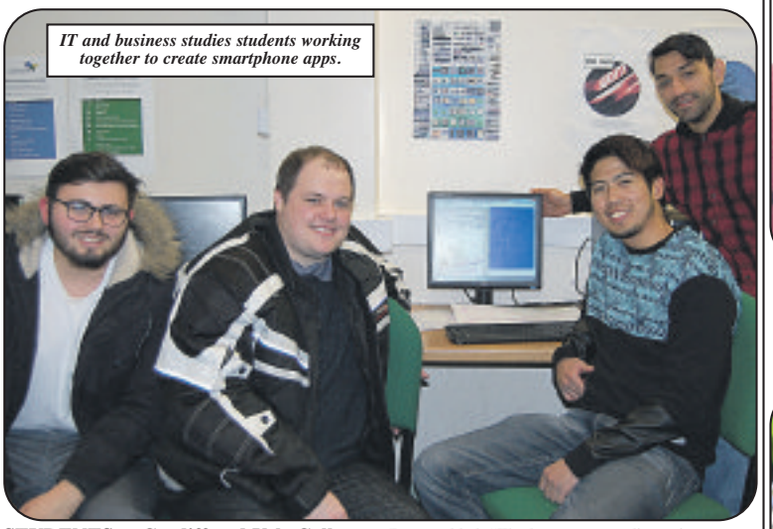
How does the council intend to move forward with this project?

Nette Harkus, Save Cemetery Approach Action Group member.

Share your news and views with us - email: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

See more readers' letters on page 24

Marketing of IT 'apps' – students' training session



IT and business studies students working together to create smartphone apps.

STUDENTS at Cardiff and Vale College have been given training and advice on how to set up and market their own smartphone apps.

Enterprise education expert Rich Strudwick and coding specialist Craig Thomas have held a series of workshops for students. First they had to come up with ideas for apps, then Craig helped them create the apps and a final workshop was held to investigate selling the apps and creating a market for them.

"It's great – the students have been really engaged," Rich Strudwick said. "It's a good blend, using skills picked up in college and applying them to real life situations. We have business studies and IT students working together in ways that they might not normally get the opportunity to do."

Some of the ideas the students had could be developed into commercial products, Rich added.

Level 3 software development student Sam Phillips said: "The skills I have gained here will help me complete my course."

Naomi Baelz, an IT (business) student from Barry, added: "The best part was discussing product ideas and getting feedback on how to make it better."

Jeremy Aquinaldo, a software development student from Penarth, said: "Learning how to make a high fidelity prototype was very useful."

Abbas Iqbal, another software development student, said: "The best part was planning and creating a prototype and planning the way forward."

The workshops were part of the College's B#Epic programme, a series of extra-curricular fun activities designed to boost students' skills while equipping them with the qualities needed for the workplace.

Leaving well alone at the Fonmon Apiary!

THE days are getting longer and some are even warm enough for the bees to venture out but no internal inspection has been done yet.

Clean hive parts are ready though some still require a little attention. Until we get regular temperatures of 10˚C or more, the bees will be observed but left well alone. Should I judge that a colony requires feeding, this will be done using either liquid feed or perhaps the sugar dough.

At present, when the bees are venturing out, many are returning laden with pollen and this is a very encouraging sign.

However, two of my colonies have died out, but this was because they had swarmed last year and the new Queens did not get mated, and colonies with a non-functioning Queen are in no way prepared for the winter shut down.

I could have attempted to unite them with a Queen-right colony but failure on my part to do this led to their demise. That is not good beekeeping! As ever, I pledge to do better this coming season.

My beekeeping has spanned some 40 years, and I am getting older. Beekeeping activities do demand a certain level of fitness and there are days when I know how old I am. In the coming years it is my intention to reduce the number of colonies that I look after.

Also come September of this year I will be getting remarried and this will see me moving to Cardiff to live, so a change in my beekeeping will have to be addressed.

A reduction in equipment will be on the cards if any beekeepers might like to contact me to discuss my plans, I would be glad to hear from them. I am not giving up completely but my long-term plans do involve less physical beekeeping.

Contact information: telephone 01446 750709. At present, my internet provider is changing so no e-mail address will be available just yet.

Let's hope spring takes off and our bees get a good start to this coming season. Remember, we need our bees, and we also need

Moggy mums desperately need homes!

Zsa Zsa is looking for a home.
PHOTO by SUE DOBBS

LIKE many human mothers being celebrated on March 15, the moggy mums at Cats Protection have done their fair share of child rearing, and now it's time to relax and enjoy the comfort of a forever home.

One super-mum who is overcoming the odds to look after her kittens is one-year-old Zsa Zsa.

She and her kittens were taken in by Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre on St David's Day after being abandoned by their owners when they were evicted from their property.

Zsa Zsa and her kittens, Ziggy, Zara and Zina, will be available for adoption once the kittens have been reared. Zsa Zsa will be neutered before she is homed, to avoid any more unplanned litters.

Centre Manager, Sue Dobbs, said: "Zsa Zsa is a beautiful girl and she's doing a great job of raising her kittens despite what's happened to her in the past. We're really looking forward to seeing her go to a permanent home once she's raised her kittens.

"However, she is just one of many cat mums in Cats Protection's care that are in need of their own forever home. And while kittens do make a lovely addition to any home, their mothers make an equally wonderful addition. I'd like to urge anyone thinking about getting a new cat to give a moggy mum a chance."

If you are interested in adopting a cat, contact Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre on 01656 724396.

WESTBOURNE PUPILS ENJOY RED NOSE DAY

WESTBOURNE Junior School definitely made their faces funny for money last week.

For a donation, children were allowed to come to school in their own clothes and had to wear at least one red item. They could also pay to have their faces painted by the teachers.

The children chose lots of different designs for their faces, some of the most popular being animals, pirates and superheroes.

Several children chose to be painted like one of the teachers, so we had six 'mini Mr Murrays' as well as the real Mr Murray!

One of the most popular parts of the day was when the children bought raffle tickets for a prize draw, the prize being to paint a teacher's face! This resulted in some scary looking faces, as well as some beautiful designs and a few more animals.

Parents were able to enjoy seeing all the funny faces at Friday afternoon assembly. The school also had a cake sale at break time and over the day raised £220 for the Red Nose Day charities.

CC

Businessman skydives to help Felix

A LOCAL business owner has been set a high-flying fundraising goal after being touched by an appeal on Facebook.

Jason Jenkins will be skydiving for the 'Go Felix' fund.

Jason Jenkins, who runs Securahome, asked the company's Facebook and Twitter followers to nominate the charities they thought needed support in 2015. A number of charities were put forward, but the 'Go Felix' campaign had the highest number of nominations.

When Jason read about two-and-a-half year old Felix Forbes, he knew he needed to do something to help the family, who live in Penarth.

Felix was born with a very rare genetic brain disorder called Lissencephaly and Miller-Dieker Syndrome. The condition meant that during pregnancy, his brain didn't fully develop the full six layers a normal functioning brain has, but instead has only four.

Even basic functions like swallowing food or holding up his own head is a challenge for Felix, but he has responded well to therapy.

The Forbes family, who hail from Swansea, are trying to raise £50,000 for extra therapy and equipment for Felix to help improve his quality of life.

Jason said: "As parents, Alex and Dan are trying to do their very best for their son and give him the best quality of life possible, I felt that we, as a company, needed to do something to help.

"My staff, however, decided I needed to do something big and got in touch with Skydive Swansea! I've never done anything like this before, so I'm not sure what to expect, but I'm pretty sure there will be a few nerves on the day!"

The parachute jump takes place on Good Friday, April 3, and Jason has set up a Just Giving page to collect sponsorship.

Felix's mother Alex, who recently had another baby, said she had been overwhelmed with the support that they had received from people in Swansea and across south Wales.

She said: "It's wonderful to hear that Jason is raising money for Felix and that so many people nominated us. It has been incredible and very humbling to get so much support from people who have read or heard Felix's story."

To sponsor Jason's skydive go to: www.justgiving.com/felix skydive.

S4C limbers up for RWC!

S4C HAS secured the rights to broadcast the Rugby World Cup 2015 in England – and the channel will provide an attractive package of live matches, highlights, analysis and chat programmes.

S4C's Rugby World Cup 2015 coverage will include nine live games, covering all the Welsh games throughout the tournament.

And whatever fate awaits Wales in the tournament, S4C will broadcast one live match from the quarter-finals, one match from the semi-finals, the bronze match and the final itself.

S4's coverage begins on September 18 with the Opening Ceremony and the tournament's first match between England and Fiji at Twickenham.

Wales' Rugby World Cup campaign begins on September 20 in the Millennium Stadium against Uruguay. Wales will then face England at Twickenham on September 26. On October 1, Wales will face Fiji in Cardiff and the all-important Australia v Wales will be on October 10 at Twickenham.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. **IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

MORE HOUSES, LESS AMENITY, FOR RHOOSE

LAST Thursday, the council approved outline planning consent for Taylor Wimpey to build 350 houses and supply land for a primary school on land to the west of Happy Valley Lane.

Rhoose councillor Jeff James and I raised objections on the basis that the drainage system would be inferior to the comprehensive scheme already submitted by landowners of the adjoining site and might increase the flood risk to nearby houses.

We added that the proposed access from the site onto Porthkerry Road would be unsuitable and cause congestion in the future. Following a motion to refuse the application, supported by the Conservative, Independent, and Plaid members of this committee, the Labour group supported by Llantwit First, voted against, resulting in a tied vote in which the chairman's (Labour) casting vote defeated the motion.

I strongly believe that local authority planning decisions should not be political.

On Monday, the scrutiny committee (life long learning) debated the library issues. Various speakers including Adam Riley (Rhoose group) councillors Jeff James, Chris Franks, Ian Johnson and I put forward a case for keeping Rhoose and Dinas Powys libraries open.

It was argued that both these libraries served large populations and met the needs of residents. Points raised included the fact that Rhoose served a current population of 7,000 (expanding rapidly due to recent approval for 800 houses), while Cowbridge had 6,000 inhabitants with excellent library facilities employing seven staff, while Rhoose employed just two part-time.

It was stated that residents were unhappy with the consultation process, and suggested that a decision had been reached prior to any discussions. A motion to keep both libraries open, put forward by Nic Hodges, was supported by the Conservative members and Plaid but defeated by Labour, who were supported by Llantwit First.

Coun Fred Johnson countered my statement that Rhoose was lacking amenity by stating that Rhoose was getting a new school. The developer is legally bound to set aside a small percentage of the land for other uses anyway, and is not giving anything away. There have been cases in the past in the Vale where promises for a school have not come to fruition.

Coun Philip Clarke, Rhoose.

'Council tax up, services down'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has struck again! Every year the council tax goes up.

Is it to pay high salaries to councillors, and their husbands or wives who are also being paid as councillors... talk about keeping it in the family.

Still I don't think they have too much concern with these rises.

Now we have a service charge for black bags which were initially already paid for within the council tax charges, and allegedly a further charge for the removal of larger household items such as sofas beds etc. To top all of that, the recycling drops at Halfords, the old destructor depot on Court Road, Waitrose and at the Ship Inn have all closed. Have you no concern for Barry folks that can only get to these places?

Why will we now be paying £117 for this Police Commissioner? The only police I ever see can be found at Morrison's on most days of the week, I thought perhaps the police station had been moved there.

Rob Turner, Barry Island.

'Police cannot be above criticism'

MR KJ WATTS, a Tory councillor and a senior policeman during the miners' strike, is "appalled" by Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood's criticism of the police role in the strike.

I personally witnessed police beating miners across the head with truncheons and waving their pay slips at the pickets to provoke them.

We now know lots more about the police in the 1980s than we did then – their role at and after Hillsborough, their self-confessed systemic racism, and now the prospect of an enquiry into the police cover-up of paedophile rings.

Don't rule out a further enquiry into the policing of the miners, overseen by Mrs Thatcher, the then leader of Mr Watts' party, who viewed them as the "enemy within".

Ben Tonnies, Llantwit Major.

Charging for food bags would be 'ridiculous'

I HAVE been told the Vale Council is planning to charge for food waste bags, and it will start this April.

This is ridiculous, ill-planned and will result in people putting food waste back into the black bags for landfill, the very waste we want to keep out of landfill.

This waste creates methane gas as it rots. This harmful gas is 22 times more damaging than Co2 for the environment.

I am sure this is going against the EU landfill directive.

We seem to have a money grabbing, environmentally unfriendly waste management team in our council!

Are we not paying enough council tax already? If the Vale needs to save money then get rid of the backward-thinking people running the waste management in the Vale.

Chris Owen, Cowbridge.

Will Cowbridge make 'best town' lists in the future?

LAST week, The GEM and local people responded with enthusiasm to the survey in The Times promoting St Hilary as one of the best villages in the UK to live in.

I wonder if equal prominence will be given to the survey this week that promotes Cowbridge as one of the best towns, but adds the rider that "The only potential cloud on the horizon is the proposed development of 390 new homes just outside the town"?

As The Times, suggests there is indeed vociferous protest. When the negative impact of the Darren Farm development achieves national recognition of this nature, perhaps the Vale of Glamorgan planners will realise the widespread understanding of the damage that is threatening the community for which they have responsibilities.

Cowbridge will not appear in this list in the future should Darren Farm go ahead.

D B Webb, Cowbridge.

Spot the party in candidate's paper

I HAVE received yet another expensively-produced pseudo-newspaper from Alun Cairns MP, and am still very puzzled why he is so reluctant to describe himself as Conservative.

In The Chronicle, the word Conservative appears once, in small print on the bottom of page 4.

Is Mr Cairns shy, or does he realise Conservatives have much to be ashamed of?

Brian Morris, Barry.

High Sheriff's pulling power boosts Barnardo's Cymru

HIGH Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Liz Singer, pulled out all the stops to support a charity close to her heart.

Having been a volunteer fundraiser for Barnardo's for over 40 years, Liz roped in local companies and a number of familiar faces to take part in the High Sheriff's Celebrity Tug of War in aid of the charity chosen during her year of office.

It was an invitation that pulled on the heart-strings of participants and spectators as the event in the grounds of Pencoed College raised an impressive £32,495.08.

Among the well-known names who took up the slack at the event were Derek Brockway, Sue Charles, Roy Noble, Ryan Jones, Jamie Baulch and Tom Shanklyn.

Master of ceremonies was Wynne Evans, the legendary Carmarthen-born tenor and Welsh National Opera principal, who is also the famous face and voice of GoCompare.com.

"Barnardo's Cymru helps thousands of people in Wales each year and it's a privilege to lend our support to such a worthwhile cause," said Liz. "The Celebrity Tug of War exceeded all our expectations and we were thrilled with how people got behind it to raise such a great amount and I'd like to extend a big thank you to those that made the event such a success."

The Sinclair Group, South Wales' biggest motor retailer, supported the day with its own celebrity team and provided its Mercedes-Benz of Bridgend showroom as the venue for the cheque presentation to Yvonne Rogers, director of Barnardo's Cymru.

Yvonne explained: "As a charity we rely on voluntary funds for us to remain independent, so donations such as this from the High Sheriff's Committee are essential for us to carry on helping disadvantaged children and young people in Wales.

"We're very grateful for the support from the High Sheriff's Committee and thank everyone who took part in what was an excellent day and contributed to raising such a fantastic amount for Barnardo's Cymru."

The impressive fundraising total will enable Barnardo's Cymru to continue its work with vulnerable children, young people, families and communities, the charity dedicated to helping these people build a better future. Currently, Barnardo's Cymru operates 88 invaluable projects across Wales, which require £3 million each year to keep operating.

Young Farmers put Glamorgan on the entertainment map

GLAMORGAN Young Farmers shone brightly at the Wales YFC Entertainment Feast Weekend.

A highlight of the Wales YFC calendar is the 'Entertainment Feast', which sees Welsh and English language clubs take to the stage for the highly anticipated annual drama competition. Over the weekend of festivities, other competitions are also held as eliminators to the national competition.

Swansea Grand Theatre set the scene for this year's competition, welcoming a sell-out audience to enjoy the YFC performances.

Glamorgan YFC representatives took part in the English speaking competitions and definitely made an impression on their respective judges.

Laura Elliott from Gower YFC submitted a form prior to the competition day and was then interviewed by a panel of judges about various topics including young farmers, her commitment to the movement along with her personal and professional outlook.

Laura proved popular with the judges as she received the accolade of the Wales YFC Senior Member of the Year title and will now go forward to the national competition next month in Torquay.

Bridgend YFC member, Beth Granville, competed in the junior member of the year competition. Each competitor was required to submit a curriculum vitae and a personal statement beforehand and give a short presentation on the day followed by an interview with a panel of judges asking questions about the competitor's background and Young Farmers involvement.

Beth did extremely well and was placed in the top three runner-up positions.

Representing Glamorgan in the commercial dance competition was an all-female team from Maendy YFC who performed to a medley of Usher songs. Their high standard of dance ability and interpretation of the music resulted in them winning the competition. The team will now represent Wales at the national YFC finals next month.

The last results to be presented were for the highly-regarded pantomime competition. Judge, Brian Sullivan, had the important task of adjudicating the seven English language casts from around Wales.

Maendy YFC were the first to take to the stage with their original production of 'Camels and Guile upon the Nile'.

Dame Cleopatra led the Egyptian-themed performance with a huge measure of traditional panto humour, gags and puns.

The support and participation from the crowd was incredible, which helped the 44-strong cast aged between 12 and 26 to perform to their best ability.

The competition for the top spot was highly contested and unfortunately Glamorgan were narrowly pipped to the post and received second place.

In true stage fashion, the show must go on and the members are now looking to their next competitions. For some, this will be the Wales YFC public speaking day on Saturday, March 21 at Builth Wells, and for others, Glamorgan YFC Field Day at Amelia Trust Farm Park on Saturday, April 4.

To find out more about Glamorgan YFC, visit www.glamorganyfc.com , contact county organiser Gwyneth Thomas on 07779 331839 or email Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk. You can also like 'Glamorgan YFC' on Facebook or follow @GlamorganYFC on twitter.

AM criticises council tax rise

REGIONAL AM Andrew RT Davies has added his voice to those criticising the recent Vale Council tax rise of 3.9 per cent.

Mr Davies said: "We all appreciate the financial pressure that local authorities are under following the Welsh Labour Government's cuts to the budget this year.

"In England, under the Conservative-led coalition, council tax has again been frozen and the treasury has made money available to the Welsh Government to do the same.

"Welsh Conservatives have long campaigned for a freeze in council tax, Labour refuses to use that money to freeze council tax here in Wales.

"This will cost the average family an extra £40 and will hit the least well off hardest."

School opens new play area

VALE MP Alun Cairns joined pupils and staff at Palmerston Primary School in Barry for the official opening of a new PlayPod facility in the school playground.

Mr Cairns joined pupils, teachers and staff from Dow Corning, the local firm that donated funds to install the new facility. The new pod makes use of scrap from businesses for children to learn and play with in the playground.

Mr Cairns said: "I was very impressed with the new PlayPod that has now opened at the school. A great deal of effort and fundraising has gone into opening this new facility. I fully support projects that allow children to learn new ways of play that encourages youngsters through different activities."

Trust looks back on year

THERE was an excellent turnout on Wednesday, March 11, as Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, the president, welcomed the membership and visitors to Cowbridge Charter Trust's AGM.

He advised them that this was an altogether special event. The activities undertaken by the Trust over the last 11 years were being transferred to a new organisation, the Cowbridge Charter Trust cio; also a charity registered with the Charity Commission but offering considerably better legal protection to its members.

So the audience was treated to a double dose of AGMs!

After the formal proceedings were over, there followed a comprehensive and interesting account by Harry Hailes of the history of the crossings of the River Thaw that gave rise to Cowbridge's very existence. It incorporated an appeal by the Trust for funds to enable restoration of the stone plaque in Eastgate that commemorates this.

This was followed by a stunning photographic presentation of the last year in Old Hall Gardens given by Linda Nottage, who is one of the garden's volunteers. With marvellously rich pictures of brilliant borders and beautiful butterflies, it was as if full summer had suddenly arrived in the Lesser Hall!

Linda Osborn used the occasion to launch two bilingual work books produced by the Trust especially for children: one on the wild life of Old Hall Gardens; the other on the history of Old Hall and a town centre version of the Iolo Morganwg Trail, easily achievable by children.

The invaluable assistance of Creative Rural Communities and Environment Wales in helping the Trust to undertake its various works was gratefully acknowledged.

After such a demanding evening it was no wonder that the refreshments were so well received.

DT

LOCAL ARTISTS INSPIRED BY BEAUTY OF DYFFRYN

A GREAT mansion, a lost family, money galore and spectacular gardens returning to their former grandeur – Dyffryn House and Gardens have offered a year of inspiration to a group of local artists.

Vale of Glamorgan Artists, VOGA, are a group of local professional artists. They have spent the past year creating contemporary artworks inspired by the beautiful Grade II-listed house and its extravagant gardens, deemed the best Edwardian garden in Wales.

An exhibition of their work will open to the public on April 2 and continue until the end of May.

The exhibition which is called 'A Year at Dyffryn with VOGA' will include a number of drop-in drawing workshops open to the public on April 18 amd 25.

The exhibition will launch the Exhibition Hall, which is accessible to the public whenever the gardens are open. More information about the members of VOGA can be found on their website: www.vogavaleart.org.

Dyffryn Gardens is open seven days a week throughout the year. For opening times please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Support group's meeting

BARRY Breastfriends (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group) will be meeting on Friday, March 20 at 2pm at the Masonic Hall in Broad Street.

The speaker this month is Maxine White from Tenovus who will be talking about the charity's work with cancer patients.

For more details of the meeting or information about the group, telephone Pam on 07919 035658.

Antiques fair

THERE will be a treasure trove antiques and collectors' fair on Sunday, March 29 at the Leisure Centre, Broadshoard, Cowbridge CF71 7DA, 10am – 4pm.

Entry is £2 (accompanied children free) and over 30 stands with excellent quality goods will be on display. This is a follow-up to the success of fairs held at the same venue last year.

Home-made cakes and refreshments. All enquiries to 02920 512349, or www.treasuretrovefairswales.com.

SAINTS A STEP CLOSER TO TITLE

BARRY Saints took a giant step closer to sealing the Mr Windows Second Division title with a 6-2 win over a hard working Vulcan Galaxy.

Saints dominated with their possession football and carved out numerous opportunities in the first ten minutes, but could not break down a stubborn Galaxy side and it looked to be the start of a frustrating day.

Michael Evans had other ideas and after being picked out by Darren Townsend he smashed the ball home to open the scoring.

David Evans got in on the act moments later; after being forced into the corner he somehow managed to dance between the Vulcan defence and slam the ball home from a tight angle.

Nicky Elston grabbed a third goal from a corner; after the first attempt was blocked the second fell to him to hook the ball home.

Josh Cummings grabbed the fourth with a late run beating the offside trap, and after the keeper had come off his line Cummings was left free and tapped home.

The Saints were cruising by halftime but Vulcan showed a lot of spirit and came out in the second half with a good spell and scored from a header from a whipped free kick.

Saints got back to scoring ways when David Evans was pushed from behind in the box from a long throw, and he stepped up to convert the penalty he had won.

Josh Cummings grabbed his second after a good break away and with the keeper losing his bearings Cummings bent the ball in to the far corner.

Vulcan did have the last laugh - with the game already lost, the makeshift keeper who normally plays centre half came up for a corner and scored a towering header at the back post!

GL

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00164/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace timber door and sliding sash windows with detail matched UPVC door and sliding sash windows
Location:/Lleoliad: 108, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Nicholas

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01483/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development, comprising the erection of 40 dwellings and garages and the construction of roads, footways, footpath and cycleway, drainage and services, landscaping, pumping station and all associated building and engineering operations at Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen, Cowbridge
Location:/Lleoliad: Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00218/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a ground mounted solar PV project and associated development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00188/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New cattle farmstead
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjoining Greenway Farm, Bonvilston

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00208/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of a rural enterprise worker's dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjoining Greenway Farm, Bonvilston

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00217/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Rural Enterprise Dwelling incorporating Bed and Breakfast accommodation and the change of use of land to enable siting of two Shepherds' huts as associated accommodation
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St. Brides Major

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land at Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major.

I give notice that D. R. and E. G. Davies Ltd. is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Construction of a ground mounted solar PV project and associated development.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement at a charge of £100.00 (hard copy) or £15.00 (CD copy) from Asbri Planning Limited, Unit 9, Oak Tree Court, Mulberry Drive, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff. CF23 8RS so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:
- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 9 April, 2015.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 9 April 2015 quoting reference 2015/00218/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major

Hysbysir trwy hyn D. R. and E. G. Davies Ltd. n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Construction of a ground mounted solar PV project and associated development

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Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 9 April 2015 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/00218/FUL.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 March, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Hockey club's Whitchurch double date

IT was honours even as Penarth Hockey Club faced off against old rivals Whitchurch in the penultimate round of Davis Wood Hockey League fixtures at the weekend.

PENARTH 3 WHITCHURCH 'B' 4

Penarth's senior side welcomed their Whitchurch opponents to Barry knowing that a victory would likely secure the fourth place finish coveted by the Bears, but equally aware that the visitors' lowly league position belied the narrow spread of points that covered eight of De Cymru & The Marches 1's 12 teams.

Penarth started well and earned an early short corner which was put away by Phil Lane after he had beaten a couple of Whitchurch defenders at the top of the 'D'.

Spurred on by the breakthrough, Penarth pushed forward looking for a second but, despite looking comfortably in charge, took their eyes off the ball and, with one bad pass, allowed the visitors to equalise against the run of play.

Revitalised by the goal, Whitchurch took the bull by the horns and it wasn't long before they scored again, this time from a short corner earned after a spell of pressure.

The goal was enough to ensure that the visitors went into the halftime interval with the upper hand and, while Penarth knew they would have to start the second half strongly to get back into the game, it wasn't long before the deficit doubled as Whitchurch added a third goal.

The home side hit back, reducing the arrears as the soon-to-depart Matt Lewis claimed his first goal of the season following a well-worked move, but Penarth's defence again undid the good work by allowing Whitchurch to again score on the counter-attack.

Desperate to get something out of the game, Penarth pushed forward and finally managed to nick another goal back, but that was to be it for the Bears as time ran out, allowing Whitchurch to claim a 4-3 win.

Incredibly, for the second week running, results elsewhere went Penarth's way and, despite the loss, the Vale side remains fourth in the standings,

However, there are now four teams massing just two points behind them, meaning that victory this weekend is essential to guarantee the end-of-season placing they desire.

WHITCHURCH 'F' 1 PENARTH 'A' 2

Similarly chasing an end-of-season position that would confirm them as 'best of the rest' in a division where the leading quartet have proven to be head-and-shoulders above the remainder, Penarth's 2nd XI faced a tricky visit to one of four Whitchurch sides in De Cymru 2.

Again, a closely-packed mid-table group meant that a Penarth victory was essential to keep the Vale side on course for their target, but the home side had already shown to be a tricky opponent for stronger sides this season.

Penarth started fluently, with Nathan Townsend and Rob Harrison providing a fulcrum for a slick passing game that left Whitchurch chasing their tails for the opening 20 minutes.

Despite the absence of leading scorer Dave Watkins, the visitors looked threatening in front of goal and it did not take long for the deadlock to be broken.

Although Townsend looked to be drifting harmlessly across the top of the Whitchurch 'D', a deft reverse stick shot caught the defence napping before the ball thudded into the backboards to give Penarth a deserved lead.

With the full-strength defensive cohort of Ian Smith, Craig Llewellyn, Zbig Sobierierierskii, Paul Roberts and Nick Pratt effectively corralling rare Whitchurch breaks, it wasn't long before the visitors doubled their advantage, this time with Sam Salisbury popping up at the back post to deflect home a shot from the top of the 'D'.

At 2-0, Penarth should really have been able to exert their superiority and extend the score at will, but rolling substitutions took their toll and gradually allowed Whitchurch back into the game.

After a brief period of pressure, the visitors conceded a silly foul inside their 25 and were then caught out by a quick self-pass that allowed the home side to fire home on the stroke of halftime.

Having their advantage halved left Penarth a little jittery at the start of the second period, and the passing game that had proven so effective in the early stages was largely abandoned in favour of 'hit-and-hope' hockey that was always going to be less effective against a well-marshalled veteran Whitchurch side.

Although there were chances at both ends – Penarth's inspired by the promising Devash Patel and proven Dave Thomas and Whitchurch's denied by goalkeeper Jason Harris – there was to be no further scoring as the sides remained locked at 2-1 through the entire 35 minutes.

The victory may have been slightly fortunate for the visitors, but allowed them to move back into sole possession of fifth place with one game remaining. Although the two sides below them could both snatch the position on the final weekend of the season, one more win for Penarth would allow them to put the matter beyond doubt, wrapping up 'top spot' in the 'division within a division'.

This weekend sees the 1st XI play round out their campaign with a tricky road game at Cirencester, while the seconds entertain an unpredictable Bridgend side in what could be the Vale club's last competitive game at Colcot Leisure Centre before 'hockey comes home' next season.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens - d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Romilly bowlers looking towards new season

THE new outdoor bowls season is just weeks away and Barry Romilly Bowling Club are looking forward to playing in the newly formed league format.

All division numbers have been reduced from 12 teams to eight, this will allow Cardiff Municipal league matches to be played on a home and away basis for the first time with clubs now playing 14 games which will give the league's winners greater satisfaction as this format will show a true reflection on a seasons' performance.

In preparation for the new season Barry Romilly Bowling Club are holding their pre-season meeting on Saturday, March 21, at 10am in the clubhouse at Romilly Park.

All members are requested to attend as there are a number of important matters to be discussed; also the club are having new playing shirts for the forthcoming season and confirmation of size is needed.

New bowlers interested in joining Barry Romilly Bowling Club are invited to attend the meeting or contact the secretary George Trepleton on 07793 325988.

FPB

Barry darts league round-up

THERE were five matches which took place in the Barry Darts league this week.

The Cwm Talwg remain on top of the league with a 16-5 home win over the Park Weasels.

The Poachers are keeping up the pressure on second place with a 15-6 away win over the Wanderers.

The Billy Ghosts move into third place after gaining revenge over the Plastics with a resounding 17-4 away win. Craig Harris hit a 180 and Ray Mathews hit a 114 out shot during the match.

The Mariners also had a 17-4 victory at home to the Raiders.

In the last match of the week, the Loungers came out on top in a close 11-10 win against the Hell Raisers.

RL

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for March 16:

North/South - 1st Glenda Roberts & Liam Sheridan 62.20%, 2nd = Barrie Waite &Graham Norris 59.82% and Steve Burgoyne & John Evans 59.82%.

East/West - 1st Sue Norris & Su Summerhayes 63.69%, 2nd Phil & Lou Edwards 55.95%, 3rd Geoff Tinkler & John Henson 55.06%.

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Llantwit Major £385,000

- Five bedrooms
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- Detached family home
- Four bedrooms
- Standing in ¾ acre
- EPC Rating - F

Moulton £750,000

- Detached rural home
- Four bedrooms
- Set in 2.89 acres
- EPC Rating - D

Penmark £435,000

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- Four bedrooms
- Double Garage
- EPC Rating - D

Graig Penllyn £480,000

- Detached House
- Four bedrooms
- Three receptions
- EPC Rating - F

Cowbridge £585,000

- Detached property
- Five bedrooms
- Three receptions
- EPC Rating - D

Pendoylan £695,000

- Detached rural home
- Four Bedrooms
- C. 2 acre paddock
- EPC Rating - F

Llantwit Major £255,000

- Detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
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Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale?

Mrs Helen Silvey – **18 Hickman Road, Penarth** – Replacement roof covering.
Mr and Mrs Price – **89 Greenacres, Barry** – Flat roof porch to infill recessed area at front.
Mrs Aida Roberts – **25 Cwrt y Vil Road, Penarth** – Proposed detached greenhouse.
Mr David Davies – **49 Hillside Drive, Cowbridge** – Replace current conservatory with more solid building.
Mr and Mrs S David – **21 Lidmore Road, Barry** – Demolish existing single storey rear/side extension and construct new two storey rear/side extension.
Edwards Investments – **Former Magistrates' Court, Thompson Street, Barry** – Vary condition 24 of permission 2012/01114/FUL.
Mr and Mrs Julian and Samantha Burton – **218 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Single storey front extension and enlargement of front dormer. Replacement of front access stops and rear windows to ground floor dining and living room spaces with folding sliding door sets.
Mr Tom McIlveen – **100 Millfield Drive, Cowbridge** – Two storey side extension.
Mr and Mrs G Hill – **11 Illtyd Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Alteration of internal first floor layout to provide a third bedroom; amendment to 2014/00781/FUL.
Mr Stuart Jones – **61 Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – Loft conversion with rear dormer and single storey rear extension plus associated works.
Mrs Eirwen Jones – **96 Broadway, Llanblethian** – Removal of existing conservatory and replacement with larger flat roofed extension. Removal of existing flat roofed dormer window and replacement with new gable roof. Existing failing flat roof to narrow side extension to be replaced with pitched roof.
Mr Andrew White – **18 The Heathers, Barry** – Proposed rear extension. Comprises a single and double storey incorporating a ground floor dining/kitchen and a first floor bedroom extension.
Mrs Ceri Bromley – **11 Shakespeare Road, Barry** – New single storey side extension in place of existing garage.
Mr Raymond John – **Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen** – Removal of conditions 14/15 and 16; all in connection with code for sustainable homes, Welsh 2014 part L building regulations to apply instead.
Mr Lee Peacock – **The Moorings, Highlight Lane, Barry** – Replace existing flat roof on single storey. Extension to front of property with two storey. A two-metre extension to the existing garage.
Mr Bill Coslett – **8 Britten Road, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension and new front porch.
Mr and Mrs Shahjahan – **Neonta Stores, 5 Vere Street, Barry** – Change of use of ground floor shop (Class A1) to hot food takeaway (Class A3) and installation of fume extraction unit to rear.
Notemachine – **Premier, 107 Broad Street, Barry** – Retention of ATM with internally illuminated, halo illuminated surround with blue LED tapes.
DS Properties Ltd – **North Hydraulic Pumping House, Hood Road, Barry** – Vary Condition 10 of planning permission 2014/00920/FUL.
Mr Iqbal – **15 Maillards Haven, Penarth** – Retention of two external air conditioning units.
Mr Alex Dovey – **73 Westward Rise, Barry** – Two storey side and single storey rear extension.
Ms Debbie Matthews – **8 Tair Gwaun, Penarth** – Conversion of existing garage to lounge, new utility room and external alterations to rear with linked extension.
Mr Simon Podwell – **29 Willow Close, Penarth** – Take down existing conservatory and construct to rear dwelling new sun lounge extension.
Mr D Cole – **86a High Street, Barry** – New external steel staircase to rear to access flat above (existing) and new front door to rear elevation and alterations to garage/store.
Mr Matt Jones – **3 Darren Close, Cowbridge** – Front extension over garage and front single storey lean-to.

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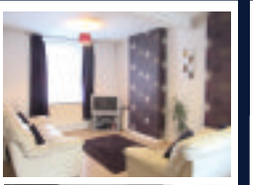
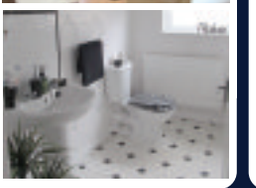
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES

RICHARD STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property in a central location
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Lean-to for storage
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Offered with no chain

£107,000

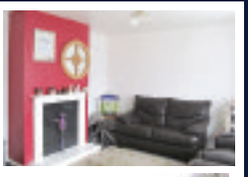
LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY
- 2 bed mid terrace property in popular area of Barry
- Within walking distance to local schools & shops
- Well presented throughout
- Courtyard garden to the rear
- Offered freehold and would make an ideal 1st purchase

£99,950

BEATRICE ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted Victorian property
- Walking distance to town centre
- Well presented throughout
- Front & rear gardens
- Situated in quiet no through road
- Ideal 1st purchase or family home
- Conveniently located close to transport links in & out of Barry

£119,950

UNDER OFFER



DYFNALLT ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bed end of terrace property
- Garden to front with a good sized garden to the rear
- In need of work throughout
- Would make an ideal investment property
- Offered freehold

£79,950

UNDER OFFER

CROSS STREET, BARRY
- 3 double bedroom mid terrace property close to the town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Low maintenace garden to rear
- In need of works throughout
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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NEW

LOMBARD STREET, BARRY
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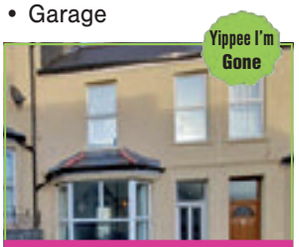

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- Central Location

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Winsford Road, Sully
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- Lovely Conservatory
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- 4 Bedrooms
- Quiet Location

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Treharne Road, Barry
- 4Bedroom Bungalow
- Large Gardens
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- 1 Bedroom
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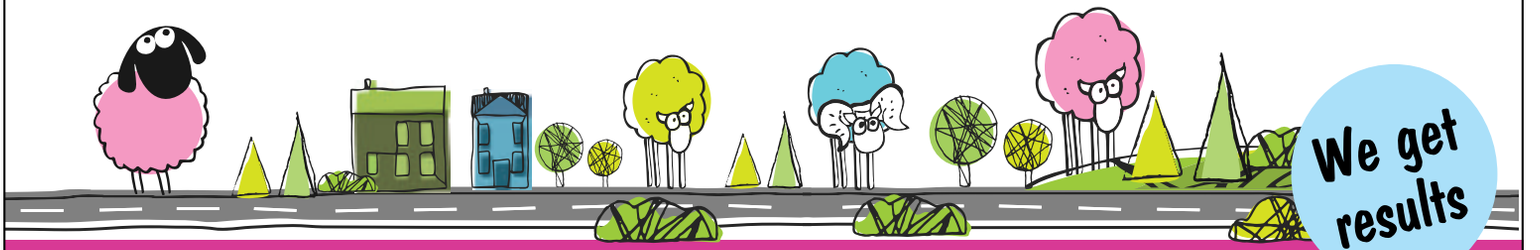

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- Parking

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- Community alarm

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- Ground floor
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- Warden

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PETERSWELL ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 220583
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £104.82 per week including water and alarm charges

SIR IVOR PLACE, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 232134
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
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- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Water meter

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H4U Reference 247830
Suitable for a single person or couple – no pets
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing

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When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Have you been affected by the bedroom tax and would like to discuss your options?

If so, call our Money Advice Line on **01446 709312** for constructive, impartial advice. This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

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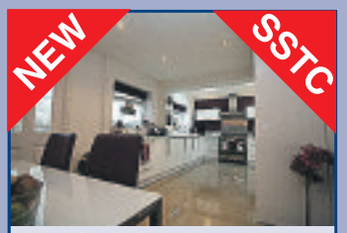

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

COLLEDGE
Albert (Col)

Peacefully on March 13 at Llandough Hospital, Col, well known of Barry. Devoted husband to Irene, much loved dad of Stephen and Andrea, cherished bampy of Gareth, Dominic, Rhian and Natalie.

Col will be dearly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service until his funeral on Tuesday, March 24 at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry at 11am, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be sent to The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Col.

Further enquires to Lyndsay J Ellis 01446 407962.

WEIGHELL
Ronald Charles (Ron)

Passed away suddenly but peacefully on 9 March. Ron of Oakfield Road, Barry (formerly of Splott). Dearly loved husband of 55 years to Olive. Loving father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law.

Funeral service at 2pm on Tuesday, March 24 at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, followed by a service at Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium, Barry. All welcome to the service but family flowers only please, donations may be made at the service to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Towers).

HARRIS
Gwilliam John

Peacefully on 11 March, Gwilliam of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved son of the late Eddie and Beatrice. Loving brother of Lorraine, Muriel, Susan, Nicholas, Nigel, Ann and the late David and Brian.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday, 23 March in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

MILLER
Rhodri Dafydd

Tragically on March 6, Rhodri aged 17 years, passed away. Cherished son of Dave and Jo, much loved brother to Iestyn.

Rhodri will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service on Saturday, March 21. Family and friends are requested to meet at 11.15am to walk and escort Rhodri to St Cadoc's, Old Village Church, Cadoxton, where the service will start at 12pm.

Family request that no attendees enter the church before Rhodri and his family. Afterwards a committal service will be held at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to support St Cadoc's Church in memory of Rhodri.

"His smile always lit up the room and will never be forgotten"

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

REES
Lionel

Dorothy and family would like to thank their wonderful family, friends and neighbours for their support at this sad time. Also for the cards and flowers and everyone that attended the service of her Darling Lionel.

Also thanks to Father Ben for the lovely Service.

EALES
Valerie Elizabeth

Peacefully on March 12, at Barry Hospital, Val passed away. Loving wife of Horace and mother of Dr. Geoff and Adrian and grandmother of Adam.

Resting at the private funeral home of W. James & Son, Fonmon. Funeral service at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major on March 26 at 12.15pm, followed by service at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Flowers may be sent to funeral home.

BOWLES
Phyllis

Peacefully on March 16 at Llandough Hospital, Phyl, devoted wife to the late Paul. Much loved mum of Jane and Craig, respected mother-in-law of Tina and Glenn. A fond nan of Lauren, Emillie, Leon and Georgia. Phyl will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962

HUTCHINSON
John Edmund

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 10 March. Loved husband of Christine, loving father of Nicholas and Melanie and grandpa to Sebastian, Elinor, Alys and Ben.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 27 March at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to the Woodland Trust (cheques only please) c/o W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major.

THOMAS
Maureen

Ann, Mavis and Haydn would like to thank their family and friends for the support and messages of condolence received following the recent sad loss of their dearly loved mother.

RICH
John

Peacefully passed away at home on March 14, aged 71 years, surrounded by family and friends. Beloved husband of Kath, loving father of Roger, devoted grandfather of Cleo, dear father-in-law of Victoria.

Will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at James Summers & Son, Lavernock Court, until the funeral service at St Mary's Church, Wenvoe on Friday, March 27 at 3pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 4pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in John's memory may be made to Prostate Cancer UK or Marie Curie Cancer Care on the day.

Bobby needs quality time

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (telephone: 01656 725219)

Bobby needs an experienced owner.

BOBBY is a an eight-month-old Collie cross. He loves his walks and enjoys mixing with his friends – he is looking forward to continuing his socialising in his new home.

He is a strong minded chap and can get frustrated at times, so he needs an experienced owner who can handle this behaviour consistently.

Bobby is looking forward to meeting a new owner who will spend quality time giving him the attention he deserves.

He does have some medical issues, which Dogs Trust will help with financially.

Bobby will benefit from living in a quiet home, with any children aged 14 or over.

Attending training classes is strongly advised to help him along the way!

If you can offer Bobby the home he needs, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust; we are open 12pm-4pm every day except Wednesday.

Linda Feagan, Supporter Relations Officer

Tales from the point-to-point

THE first point-to-point races held in connection with the Lady Curre Hunt - as it was then known - were held at Uphill Farm, near Chepstow in 1939, and to celebrate the occasion an R.A.F. pilot gave a daring display of aerobatics over the course.

Henry Clay, the honorary secretary and clerk of the course, rode in grand style to win the farmers' race on the odds-on favourite Best Way and earlier his brother, Gerald Leigh Clay, had won the adjacent hunts' race on his own gelding Freeborough.

The women's nomination race went to Captain Tullach's Easter, ridden by Miss Patience Straton, of St Mellons, near Cardiff - however, the easiest winner of the day was Dr Martin's Alley Boy.

Well ridden by Geoffrey Scudamore, the grandfather of National Hunt champion jockey Peter Scudamore, and father of Michael who won the Grand National on Oxo, he came home a distance in front of Hubert of Glamorgan in the adjacent hunts farmers' race.

The Hon. Mrs Basil Mundy, who had horses with Tenby trainer David Harrison and later Fred Rimell, acted as starter and with her biting tongue - she was known as 'Hellcat Mundy' - must have been a good one at that!

After the war, the races were revived at Howick, not far from Chepstow Racecourse, and thanks to the Jenkins and Price families, this delightful course is still in use today.

It would be impossible to list all the fine riding performances over the years by the likes of Bill Jones, Colin Davies, Dick Bowen, Jim Thomas, Mike Williams, Tim Rooney and John Llewellyn to name just some.

However, one that should be singled out is that of Newport-born Barry Thomas who, in 1971, rode in all the men's races on the card and won them all.

The same sentiment would apply to all the good horses that have ran at Howick but special mention must be made of Milton Bradley's mare Octroi who was unbeaten in nine races there.

Adapted from Brian Lee's The Races Came Off - The story of point-to-point racing in South and West Wales.

BRIAN LEE

Funeral Directors

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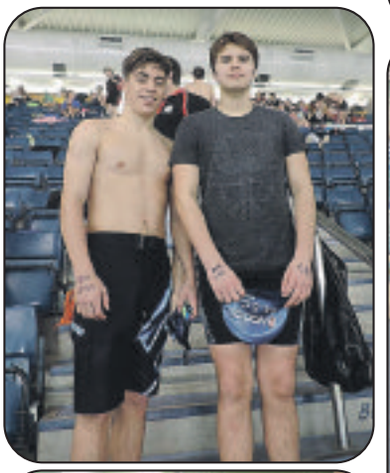
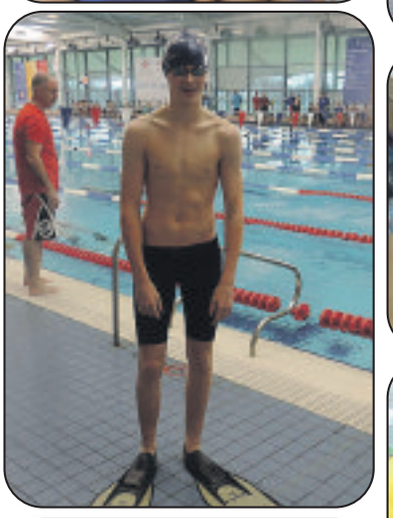
Rhoose in action at Welsh Championships





FOLLOWING a very successful Welsh Stillwaters Championship for the Rhoose Nipper team only a few weeks before, over the weekend of February 21-22 it was the junior, senior and masters teams turn to compete at the Wales National Pool in Swansea.

With a good turnout in all age groups the team members took part in manikin carry, manikin tow, manikin carry with fins and other individual events as well as a number of relays, with all races involving a combination of swimming and surf lifesaving techniques.

The junior team managed by co-ordinator Steve Baker put in some very impressive performances, winning a number of medals in the relay and pair events with gold awarded to the under-19 girls and under-14 boys pairs teams in the 'rope throw' event.

Steve had the following words of thanks for the team: "Congratulations to all of those who gave up their time to represent the junior team at this event.

"All of your hard work in the pool over the winter months has been rewarded with some excellent times in the races, many competitors achieving personal bests - well done everyone!"

Likewise the senior and masters teams did very well in both the individual and team events with many of the masters picking up medals in their races and Heddus Davies achieving gold in one of her individual events.

Well done to those members of the junior and senior teams who competed in the Super Lifesaver event also, a tough race over four 50 metre lengths with each length being a different lifesaving activity.

With two full days of events many family members gave up their weekend not only to support the teams but also to undertake time-keeping and other duties and club captain Simon Parker commented: "Once again thanks to everyone who represented the club competitively or helping out with supporting duties. As always your time and effort is much appreciated by the club."

The teams finished the competition in the following places with individual medal winners listed below:

Juniors third, seniors fourth and masters second place overall; Rhoose achieved an overall aggregate position for the Wilkinson Sword of second place.

Individual medal winners: Heddus Davies – gold manikin carry with fins, silver manikin carry, silver manikin tow with fins, bronze rescue medley. Jon Foster – silver manikin carry, silver manikin carry with fins, silver rescue medley. Dominic Lee – silver manikin tow with fins.

JF

Measure of revenge gained as VIFC beat Rhoose to final place!

THIS Supporters Cup semi-final was the first time that VIFC and Rhoose Rovers had met since Rhoose clinched the Division Two title last season, meaning that this fixture had more than just a cup final place on the line.

VIFC finished runners-up to Rovers in two competitions last year, meaning that their 3-0 victory on Saturday tasted all that sweeter.

A goalless first half saw both sides in a fierce fight for possession with early yellow cards brandished and determined defensive displays at both ends.

During the break, Bill Laing and Hywel Dark praised their side on their efforts so far, urged their squad to keep up their performance and promised the goal would come.

It didn't take long and within minutes of the restart, Reece Lewis delivered a pitch perfect corner to the near post for Jordan Mortimore to head into the net.

Rovers seemed rattled from the sudden setback right after halftime and struggled to recover for the rest of the match.

Such a slender lead is always a dangerous one but Jamie Robinson stepped up to help alleviate the pressure with an unbelievable run.

The young fullback/winger spent the majority of the game keeping his opposite number and one of Rovers' more dangerous attackers at bay but saw an opportunity to show his ability and took it.

A powerful sprint down the left side saw Robinson shrug off five challenges before being brought down in the penalty box by a sixth.

Robinson's teammates surrounded and congratulated him as if he had scored himself as the VIs knew this was likely the set up to the finishing blow.

Jordan Mortimore stepped up as designated spotkick taker and fired his strike low, making sure that even if the keeper got a hand to it, he would struggle to keep the ball out.

There were still 20 minutes left to play and Rhoose threw bodies forward hoping to find a route back into the game while having to sacrifice defensive duties.

The gaps at the back allowed Courtney Goodwin to deliver a pinpoint through-ball to the in-form and advancing Sean Flynn who broke Rhoose's offside trap.

Flynn, who is enjoying a goal rich debut season for VI Football Club, controlled the ball and scored his third goal in three games to put to bed any doubts of victory.

Rhoose Rovers never gave up, throwing everything forward when all was lost and their determination is a credit to a strong side.

Team: P Lucas, R Lewis, R Humphreys, N Cox, J Robinson, T Charles, J Laing, D Cleave, S Flynn, C Goodwin, J Mortimore. Substitutes: D Garrison, J Austin.

Bill Laing's team will have to wait to see who they face in the final as the other semi-final, Tynewydd vs Glenbrook, was postponed due to poor playing conditions.

The momentum gained from scoring against tough defences and keeping clean sheets against strong attacking players sets the VIs up well for a completely new challenge next weekend.

Cardiff Airport are up next in another semi-final – this time in the Barry Cup – and the VIs face a side leading the Premier League and who are yet to drop a point this season.

VIFC vs Cardiff Airport will be played at Barry Sports Centre this Saturday, March 21, 2pm kick-off.

We'd like to say a quick thank you to all the fans from both sides who cheered on a great game and also to our sponsors – Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Higgsy Site Services, Barry and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

RC

Change of bowls meeting venue

DUE to the alterations being made in the bowls pavilion, this year's pre-season meeting of Llantwit Major men's bowls team will be held in the rugby club on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm.

All members are requested to attend and anyone who would like to take up the game of bowls is welcome to attend, where more information will be given.

NY

WHOLE LOT OF ROSIE AT POINT-TO-POINT EVENT!

DAVID Llewellyn's 12-year-old homebred bay gelding *Rosies Peacock* notched up win number 25 (24 point-to-points and one hunter chase) when winning the Bonham's men's open race at the Curre & Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at bitterly cold Howick on Sunday.

Partnered, as usual, by reigning Welsh champion rider John Mathias, *Rosies Peacock* was disputing the lead with *Mumbles Pier*, partnered by Richard Patrick, which unfortunately came down at the second last fence leaving *Rosies Peacock*, the oldest horse in the race, to finish a distance ahead of *Supreme Regime*.

Mathias who said that *Rosies Peacock* hated the holding ground also took the restricted race on Dai Rees' *Romeo Is Bleeding* which won by eight lengths from *Jack Joner* in a time which was four seconds quicker than *Rosies Peacock* had taken to win the men's open.

Romeo Is Bleeding, an ex-Irish nine-year-old bay gelding, will probably be seen under rules in the near future.

The ladies' open race, which carried a first prize of £200 to the winner, went to *Minella For Party* who was bought for £75,000 by Vale trainer Tim Vaughan after winning an Irish maiden point-to-point in Ireland in 2011.

Minella For Party, now trained by Victoria Collins in Ludlow, was ridden by Hannah Watson and scored by six lengths from *Canshetrain*. The odds-on favourite *Lauberhorn* was never in the hunt and finished way down the field.

Owner/trainer Roger Willcox was really at a loss to explain the horse's poor run after it had won at the Brecon & Talybont the previous weekend.

Charlotte Prichard, who is a good judge of racing pace, put one over her five male rivals when winning the members' race on Jeanne Thomas's eight-year-old bay gelding *Stony Road* which came home a distance ahead of the favourite *Doc Wells* after *Castlegrace*, disputing the lead, fell four fences from home.

Stony Road, which also won the best turned out award, is trained by Charlotte's father hunt racing stalwart Ian Prichard at Pontypridd.

The eight-year-olds and over PPORA club members' conditions race, was won by the pacemaking *Awesome George* who, partnered by Leo Mahon, won by four lengths from *Stratford Stroller*.

The favourite *Harpsy Cord*, ridden by John Mathias, finished a further eight lengths away in third place.

One horse Welsh enthusiasts will not be seeing again is Tim Vaughan's 11-year-old *Golan Way* who blotted his copybook again by being slowly away in the men's open race and then refusing to jump the first fence just like he had at Llanfrynach.

Golan Way, a faller in last year's Grand National, who always looked a picture in the paddock, was a good winner over hurdles and jumps but sadly those days are now long behind him.

Apparently, Tim had decided his charge had 'run' his last race before being called in by the stewards who had decided enough is enough!

The first division of the split open maiden race went to Pete Ponting's *Sweet Like You* who, partnered by Danny Burton, easily accounted for the odds-on favourite *Union Du Chenet*, while the second half went to David Brace's home bred five-year-old *Dunraven Royal* which won by 16 lengths from *Stainless Steel* who, like *Dunraven Royal*, is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt.

David Brace OBE, who runs the Dunraven Stud at Pyle near Bridgend, was celebrating his 64th birthday and he had plenty more to smile about when his 13-year-old grandson Connor Brace won both pony races.

Connor won the 138cms and under open pony race on his grandfather's 12-year-old bay mare *Molly V111* and the 148cms and under open pony race on *Peateao* also owned by his grandfather.

TUDOR'S DOUBLE

The Vale's James Tudor was in good form at the Hampshire Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Hackwood Park on Sunday where he landed a double with *Connor Cloud* in the open maiden race and *Dante's Storm* in the Bonham men's open race.

Connor Cloud was a 5-1 chance but *Dante's Storm* was well fancied and went off the 1-3 favourite.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, March 10, a full programme of league matches was completed.

The Edmondes A lost 4-5 to the Edmondes B, the Old Post Ladies narrowly lost 4-5 to the Edmondes C, the Highwayman Inn were defeated by the same 4-5 score by Llanharry, while the Hare and Hounds lost 3-6 to the Farmers Arms.

Present league standings after 17 matches, are: Llanharry (125 points), Edmondes B (98), Highwayman Inn (88), Edmondes A (78), Hare and Hounds (68), Farmer's Arms (65), Edmondes C (56) and Old Post Ladies (32).

On Tuesday, March 24, the first rounds of the men's singles competition will be held. Matches will be played at four venues: Edmondes Arms, Farmers Arms, Hare and Hounds and Llanharry WMC.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

BAYSIDE GARAGE LTD IS CROWNED 'SMALL GARAGE OF THE YEAR'

BAYSIDE Garage was crowned the 2015 Small Garage of the Year, and in doing so fought off some stiff competition from 2013's winner Anglo Continental Cars, and Marina Motors, New Delaval Car Sales and Avia Autos.

Owner Andrew Littlejohn said: "I don't expect to win anything because I never usually do. But to be told that we had won, I was like, 'that came out of the blue'. I was thinking that it was nice to be taking part and being nominated for the award, but never did I expect to be winning it."

The small garage based near Cardiff city centre has been working away at keeping their customers happy, while competing with a new, bigger workshop moving in next door, and Andrew says that winning the award gives a clear indication about how its customers view the garage.

"I like the idea of getting feedback from customers on how we are getting on, on the booking process or their experience with us. We know that a customer will have taken five or 10 minutes to vote for us, it is nice to know that they do care or want to show that appreciation that we do look after them.

"The fact they are willing to vote for the garage is nice and even though it is a day-to-day job you want to be enjoying it, but the fact that the customers took the time to vote is what means the most to me, more than anything else."

Andrew says the future looks bright for the garage because currently they have more than enough work to keep them occupied, and he expects future redevelopments of Cardiff to pay dividends: "We are really happy where we are, and with all the building work going on you are never going to be short of work really."

What customers said:

"Very friendly and efficient. Always explains exactly what is required."

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Vital stats:

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MoT bays: 1
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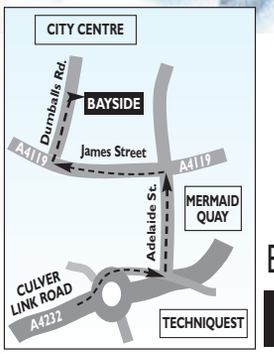

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Cowbridge Comprehensive sports round-up

The Year 9 county finals team.

LAST Friday Cowbridge Year 9 football team dismantled Caerleon in a breathtaking 10 minutes of football, to land themselves a place in the semi-finals of the prestigious Welsh Cup.

A slick opener from flying winger Cameron Gauci was followed by a deadly brace from top scorer Sam Green and Cowbridge found themselves 3-0 up inside the first quarter of an hour and Caerleon were unable to recover.

Cowbridge also hit the woodwork twice with two outrageous efforts, one coming from the mercurial midfield dynamo and captain Logan Roach. Somehow Caerleon managed to survive until halftime without conceding again.

Following some stern words from their manager, Caerleon returned to the pitch with a renewed vigour in the second half. They put Cowbridge under immense pressure and were unlucky not to get a goal in the second half.

Such was the pressure from Caerleon, Cowbridge were limited to counter attacks but this pressure also gave Mitchell Stimson Jagger and Michael Bosley the platform to showcase their outstanding defensive qualities, both making a number of crucial last ditch tackles and interceptions.

What was even more impressive was the composure and flair with which they carried the ball out of defence to relieve pressure on their teammates. The match eventually finished 3-0.

Cowbridge now confidently await the name of their semi-final opponents, knowing that a place in the Welsh Cup final and the ultimate prize of representing the Welsh FA in an international tournament, to be held in Belfast, is within their grasp.

In addition to this, Cowbridge also find themselves in the semi-finals of the Cardiff and Vale Cup. The tie is to be played against St. Illtyds by March 24 and will be held on the 3G pitch so please come and support the boys.

Cowbridge have eight wins out of eight this season – if the boys can make it 12 wins out of 12, they will achieve an unprecedented double.

Team: H. Hartmann, J.Dixon, M.Bosley, M. Stimson-Jagger, Gabe Davies, C.Gauci, L.Garrett, L.Roach, R.Allin, G.Cuddihy, S.Green, W. Marsden.

YEAR 7 HOCKEY COUNTY TOURNAMENT

The A team's first game was against Bro Edern.

The game was very close and exciting. Cowbridge worked extremely hard and displayed some excellent hockey. The passing was good and everyone worked as a team.

Cowbridge scored within the first half and took the lead. Cowbridge continued to fight for every ball and tackled well. Final score 2-1, player of the match Imogen Thomas.

The A team's second game was against Cardiff High. The girls knew this was going to be a tough match and it was.

The girls fought hard and had many opportunities but Cardiff High had a very good defence. Cardiff High took their chances and won 4-0, player of the match: Amelie Clode.

The year 7 B team played against Cardiff High B team. Cowbridge played very well by passing and moving into space. Cardiff High kept passing down the middle but Cowbridge worked well in getting the ball out wide and took their chances. Final score 4-1; the B team are now through to the final!

The Year 8 hockey team qualified to play in the Year 8 county hockey finals.

The other teams were Howells, Plasmawr and Glantaf. Cowbridge played first against Plasmawr. Plasmawr scored a goal in each half making the final score 2-0. In the second game against Glantaf, they won 1-0, and in the third game against Howells it was a 0-0 draw.

Daisy Connelly, Cowbridge's goalkeeper, whose favourite sport is football, showed her strength and skill saving many shots on target throughout the tournament. Poppy Jenkins played defence and throughout the tournament excelled herself in defending individuals, hit outs and her general contribution towards the game.

The Year 7 hockey team.

Bethan Edwards, Ffion Hughes and Eve Mordecai all played really well in midfield and attack but unfortunately Cowbridge could not get a goal in this tournament.

Team: Daisy Connelly, Sarah Wynne, Poppy Jenkins, Helena McCormack, Frankie Coates, Beth Edwards, Stephanie Brownbill, Charlotte Tudor, Ffion Hughes, Ella Jones and Eve Mordecai; substitutes were Molly Lloyd, Lauren Light and Genevieve Kirk.

NETBALL

The Year 9 team competed in the Cardiff & Vale County netball final at Talybont.

Plasmawr, Glantaf and Cathedral were battling it out to be county champions. Cowbridge faced Cathedral in the first match.

At the start of the match Cathedral pulled away but once Cowbridge had settled down towards the end of the half Cowbridge got into rhythm and played some excellent netball. At half time it was 6-4 to Cowbridge.

In the second half it was goal for goal then Cathedral came back to a draw. Cowbridge then scored the winning goal in the closing seconds to win 12-11.

The second game against Plasmawr was a very tight game but the Cowbridge girls did lack discipline and were pulled up a lot for foot fouls and obstruction, but in the last minute Plasmawr pulled away by two goals, winning 11-9.

In the final game against Glantaf, Cowbridge lost 16-4. Glantaf are a fantastic well drilled team and won the competition overall.

An excellent performance by the Year 9 team making lots of interceptions throughout and some lovely game play. Cowbridge came second overall on goal difference with Cathedral third and Plasmawr fourth.

Team: Sarah Jones, Elin Swallow, Tirion Evans, Molly Ward Tossell, Jordan Meek, Meriel Clode, Sophie Rees and Olivia Mitchell.

The Year 9 football team.

The Year 8 county finals team.

Under-9s impress

LLANTWIT Major under-9s travelled away to play Penallta RFC and 13 players turned up for the away match.

They were Kelyn Joseph, Dylan Brown, Lewys Ingram, Tom Hanmlett, Thomas George, Brandon Harris, Marcus Hanmer, Carwyn John, Braydan Griffiths, Owen Richards, Kian Barnett, Tom Jones and Thomas Lamerton.

The coaches decided they would play three 10 minute halves and the players for the first 10 minutes were Kelyn, Dylan, Lewys, Tom H, Thomas G, Brandon, Marcus, Carwyn and Braydan.

The boys played some outstanding rugby, they all kept their positions and there was some fantastic defending and tackling as well as some excellent tries scored.

At the end of the first 10 minutes the score was Llantwit Major 3, Penallta 1, tries scored by Braydan, Thomas G and Lewys.

For the next 10 minutes Tom H, Carwyn and Dylan were replaced with Owen, Tom J and Thomas L; the boys again played some excellent rugby and it was great to see them all working together as a team to play some brilliant rugby.

The defence was outstanding and the boys got stuck in with their tackling too. At the end of this 10 minutes the score was Llantwit Major 5, Penallta RFC 3, tries scored in this match by Braydan and Brandon.

The last 10 minutes saw all the players getting to play some more rugby and again the boys worked together as a team, making some great decisions - there was some great offloading of the ball and some fantastic tackles made.

The defence was brilliant and there were some great tries scored in this 10 minutes by Brandon, Dylan and Thomas L, making the final score a win for Llantwit, 8-5.

This was a great game of rugby to watch - all players played outstandingly, they all gave it a 100 per cent and this showed in the result.

Keep it up boys, men of the matches were Marcus and Thomas G.

MG

Inter's amazing comeback

BARRY Inter under-12s knew this game against Radyr Rangers would be a stern test as we previously had been beaten by this side on their march up to the higher end of league.

There were ominous signs early on as they scored in the 14th minute, a free kick way too high to be saved by Connor. A big turning point could have been the shot Eski fired at their goalkeeper which was subsequently saved; they broke and ran straight through us, firing in low to the corner giving Connor no chance. The chance of 1-1 gone, the score now read 2-0.

With Radyr scoring again just after 20 minutes we feared a rout, but the boys would not be breached again in this game. The defence of Josh, Lloyd, Dan and Aron pulled their sleeves and dogged out a performance from then on.

There was a different attitude in the second half and the midfield of Owen, Jack and Iestyn, with Eski playing high, and a cutting thrust of Jacob, gave less ball away and now we looked like we had our fight back.

Josh stepped up, shot hard and high which gave their keeper no chance. Another superb free kick taken by Josh hit the back of the net and all of a sudden the other side looked nervous.

We peppered them then, wave after wave of attacks, and some box to box play resulted in a goal to Jacob. With the clock ticking down the ball fell to Lloyd who managed to rifle the ball in the net. What a turnaround!

A quick mention of thanks to Adrian Heathfield who refereed the game fairly, a fact that didnt go unnoticed by the opposition also.

DD

Barrivale Bridge Club - latest news

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club (March 10) are as follows:

First, Mark Roderick and Mike Best 67.08 per cent; second, Peter Millar and Tim Barsby, 59.17; third, Dave Reed and Sam Fellows, 57.92.

Dave Reed and Sam Fellows won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. For details, telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Competition intense at 40 mile race!

DULL overcast conditions with drizzle for the early stages, with a high of 10 degrees proved conducive for some excellent performances at the Barry 40 Miles Track Race.

The race incorporated the 26th edition of the Welsh Ultradistance Championship, with 10 starters and eight completing the full distance. Maybe the fact that Wales will be hosting the Anglo Celtic Plate/UK 100km championships at Redwick in eight weeks time was an attraction, but there was no doubting that this was the best and most-strongly contested Welsh Ultra Championship for many years.

Particularly pleasing was the fact that Welsh athletes finished in four of the top five positions, with all four breaking the five hour barrier being a very welcome bonus (the first time this has happened since 2000).

Jason Dickinson from TROTS was a very impressive winner of this championship in 2014, and was clearly the man to beat. He was five minutes clear of the opposition after the opening 10 miles, and he turned the Welsh Championship into a procession. He has clearly moved on to another level in the last 12 months, and his reward was a huge personal best of 17 minutes. However, the destiny of the minor medals was compelling to watch, with Jason Scanlon, making his Barry debut, running a very canny race. He was, in fact, in sixth place of the Welsh athletes to finish after 10 miles, and only caught Dave Headon, who had been in the silver medal position, after 28 miles. He ran the final 20 miles five minutes quicker than the first 20, and that takes a very cool head and smart pace judgment.

The battle for bronze was closer still, with Jeremy Mower, very experienced in this event, only inching away from Dave Headon with two miles to go. However, both Jeremy and Dave failed to finish last year, so for both to break five hours was a major achievement. Two newcomers to the race, Nigel Davies (Sarn Helen) and Keith James (Lliswerry Runners) both acquitted themselves well in their first attempt at this classic event, and will have learnt much from the experience.

The Welsh ladies championship was a contest of three former champions, Jayne Angilley (2014), Natasha Farid-Doyle (2013) and Loretta Daley (2006-8). Natasha was relatively new to ultra distance two years ago, but a major breakthrough in the 24 hours event recently has given her a new-found confidence as well as the all-important extra stamina. She never looked in any trouble throughout the race, and her reward was a half-hour improvement to 5:33:47, as well as a second Welsh title.

Jayne showed all her tenacity to take the title last year, and although disappointed with her finishing time, showed tremendous spirit to take the silver medal here in 6:05:05. Sadly Loretta pulled out after 20 miles, but no doubt will be back to contest the race once more in 2016.

Despite the late withdrawal of four of the leading contenders through injury, the 29th running of the iconic Barry 40 Miles Track Race turned out to be a resounding success. Given the arduous nature of the event, the weather can have a significant bearing on the outcome – light winds and a high of ten degrees were pretty much perfect, and even the intermittent drizzle for the first half of the race helped minimise the inevitable effects of dehydration. This, plus the obvious meticulous personal preparation of the 20 athletes, led to an impressive list of personal best performances.

Grant Jeans, who won here three years ago, made the long journey from Glasgow, and despite having spent some time out through injury, started the race as the clear favourite. His likeliest challenge appeared to come from Jason Dickinson, representing the TROTS club from west Wales. Jason had a marvellous run here last year to win the Welsh title, and recent reports indicated that he was in even better form this time.

A record six ladies entered this year, indicative of the fact that British lady ultrarunners are experiencing unparalleled success of late, and three of the UK top 10 ladies over 24 hours were in the line-up. Isobel Wykes from Truro has been amongst the top UK ladies over 100 km for over a decade, but a move up to the 24 hour event last year has seen her become stronger and more confident than ever.

She was using the race as a long training run in preparation for the World 24 hour championships in Turin in five weeks time. Local athlete Natasha Farid-Doyle was another athlete who had benefited from increased mileage recently, and like Isobel was using the race as valuable preparation for sterner challenges ahead. Last year's lady winner, Jayne Angilley, returned to defend her title, and completing an impressive line up were Sharon Gayter, Loretta Daley and Molly Melhuish.

By five miles, Grant Jeans (31:00) was two and a half minutes ahead of Jason (33:33), and five minutes clear of Dave Headon and Zoltan Lesi (36:06) who were renewing their friendship from competing here last year. The next ten places were all very close. Isobel Wykes (38:41) and Natasha Farid-Doyle were running together a lot, and making running round a track look ridiculous easy. There was lots of banter with Jayne Angilley and Loretta Daley only around three minutes back, with everyone looking comfortable. The intermittent drizzle meant that there were occasional changes of clothes to ensure athletes maintained sufficient warmth and comfort.

The second five miles were pretty much a mirror image of the first with both Grant and Jason on 'cruise control' and there was little change up to halfway. Past experience of this race has shown that the third quarter begins to expose athletes' relative strengths and weaknesses. Truth to tell, there weren't a lot of weaknesses to expose; 18 of the 20 starters were still on the track, and while not running quite as fluently as previously, most were still going well.

Grant was now over six circuits ahead (11 minutes) and also had moved ahead of his 2012 schedule. Jason was no longer conceding ground and was obviously going to better his 2014 time by a distance. Grant reached the home stretch, and track racing can create some interesting battles to watch, because, even though the overall result had been decided, the two leaders spent much of the final miles running together (although six laps apart) as Jason, 16 years older, tried to establish a final superiority over his younger rival, with Grant equally determined not to let him go.

Remarkably, Grant delivered a final flourish with a sprint on the last lap to win in 4:25:15, more than seven minutes quicker than in 2012, when the conditions were significantly windier. Jason's reward in second in 4:35:54 was a successive Welsh crown and runners-up spot, and a 17 minute personal best.

Jason Scanlon followed in third, maintaining his impressive drive through the field, and even more pleasing since it was his debut in this event. Jeremy Mower eventually caught Dave Headon on lap 150, and narrowly secured 4th position, but both were elated to break the all-important five hour barrier.

Isobel continued her imperious progress to the end, and rarely has a time of 5:16:58 looked easier – exactly the tonic she wanted prior to the World 24 hour championships next month. Her friend Natasha Farid-Doyle also looked remarkably controlled to take the runners up spot and regain her Welsh title in 5:33:47 – half an hour quicker than she ran here two years ago. Jayne Angilley hung on well to place third in 6:05:05, and a Welsh championship silver, but had clearly found it a struggle.

The fact that 16 of the 20 starters made it to the finish speaks volumes as to the physical and mental preparation of all concerned. Each had a remarkable tale to tell, but none more so than Geoff Oliver. Geoff (81) has been running ultras for the last 40 years, and the Barry event for the last 20.

After competing here 11 times before, and setting five world age group records, it came as no surprise that he should return to attack the world over-80s best performance he set in the UK 24 hours championships in Tooting Bec last September. And it came as even less of a surprise that he should revise his own marks at 30 miles (5:10:21), 50 kms (5:23:00) and 6 hours (54.039km). On a day of superlative performances, Geoff had upstaged his younger rivals once again – and it was both breathtaking and inspiring to watch him.

As ever, this wasn't just about the athletes, it was also about the teams of supporters, so a special thank you should also go out to all the lap counters, drinks attendents, families and friends, Gary and Pip Hyatt for refreshments, Welsh Athletics, stadium groundsman Mike Humphrey, paramedic Martyn Morgan, race photographer Paul Stillman and everyone for their interest.

Next year's race will be the 30th – this is a show which just keeps running!

MM

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Barry's undefeated run comes to an end

BARRY Town United's long unbeaten streak came to an end on Saturday against Undy; but the Jenner Park club remain in a strong position to secure a second successive league title.

The Welsh League Division Two meeting with Undy Athletic was always pinpointed as one of the campaign's tougher tests, with the visitors having held Barry to a 2-2 draw in January, after taking Town to extra-time in the 2013-14 Welsh Cup.

However, few of the crowd of 135, opting against an afternoon of Six Nations rugby, could have foreseen the series of events that led to the Town's first league defeat since April 2014.

With traffic problems delaying kick-off and Barry manager Gavin Chesterfield stuck at the wrong end of the M4 following midweek international duties, captain James Saddler, on his 150th Barry start, skippered a team without experienced campaigners Jamie Bradford, Tom Billing and Bobby Briers, and effective youngster Paul Morgan.

Nonetheless, fresh-faced Theo Richards slotted fairly comfortably into the Town back-four, partnering fellow Barry boys Lewis Cosslett and Ryan Evans, as well as long-serving former Wales youth international Geraint Frowen.

Undy started the sharper of the sides, creating the bulk of the first-half chances and leaving Curtis Hutson, James Dixon and TJ Nagi to battle for scraps.

Town front pairing Dixon and Nagi would both strike the woodwork later, but it was the visitors who struck first blood, Gareth Cullimore's low effort beating Town goalkeeper Dan Bradley in the 34th minute.

Failing to come to life as a unit in what was a lethargic first half, Town performed better after the break, but were stunned when, three minutes into the second-half, Cullimore bagged his and Undy's second.

A fine right-footed strike that rocketed off the far post and into the Barry net, the second rocked the Jenner Park faithful and outlined the jeopardy the Town's 23-match unbeaten run was truly in.

Steadily finding their way, Dixon was unfortunate not to snatch one back for the hosts when the Undy goalkeeper blocked his effort from close range; and another Barry attempt was cleared from the line, finishing a frantic goalmouth scramble.

Then, when it seemed that the Town were destined to half the deficit, Undy broke free on the hour mark against the run of play which led to a straight red card for Lewis Cosslett.

Cosslett instinctively pulled back the Athletic striker, denying him a clean run at goal, and while Barry would evade conceding a penalty by the narrowest of margins, the resulting free-kick from the edge of the box proved to be equally dangerous.

Curling home an exquisite set-piece to give the Gwent side a sizeable 3-0 lead, Tom Hooper delighted the away contingent, while rubbing further salt into the wounds of the grandstanders.

Never knowingly beaten, Barry persisted to chase the match and, despite their man disadvantage, they pulled one back with 20 minutes remaining.

Finishing from distance with typical skill and aplomb, it was Nagi who reduced the arrears, netting his 18th of the season and 65th in Barry colours.

The strike would galvanise the crowd and home team alike and, for a brief few minutes, it appeared that the Town may mount an mighty comeback to salvage a precious point.

However, a pair of quick-fire bookings for substitute Damon Searle, baffling both onlookers and the ex-Cardiff City defender, reduced Barry to nine men and effectively ended their chances of avoiding a first league defeat.

A bad day at the office for the Welsh League Division Three champions, but credit must go to the visitors, who were the better side on the day against a side sure to bounce back.

Barry now travel to Caerleon on Saturday (2.30pm kick-off) needing four points to secure the unprecedented feat of back-to-back promotions.

Should results be in their favour, the Town could then be promoted at Jenner Park against Cwmbran Celtic next Tuesday, March 24 (7.45pm) or the following Saturday, March 28, at home to Penrhiwceiber (2.30pm).

Though their unblemished record has been shed, the real prizes still remain to play for and all in the town are welcomed to be part of what may be another historic season for the men in yellow and blue.

For the latest on the Barry Town promotion and title chases, visit the club online at www.barrytownunited.com

Team: Dan Bradley, Geraint Frowen, Ryan Evans, Lewis Cosslett, Theo Richards, Lee Baldock, James Saddler, Troy Greening, TJ Nagi, James Dixon, Curtis Hutson.
Substitutes used: Rhys James, Damon Searle, Dale Howarth.

Saturday's match was preceded by a spotlessly-observed minute's silence for Barry youngsters Alesha O' Connor, Conner Marshall, Corey Price and Rhodri Miller.

The Town players also wore black armbands in their memory on an afternoon when the club paid its respects to four popular members of the local community.

AC

Brave display by Dinas Powys

THE display the young players of Dinas Powys put in against a strong AFC Llwydcoed was credit to themselves; their desire and belief in their ability was outstanding on Saturday.

Having over seven first team players missing through injury, sickness, holidays and work the squad was stretched with a number of second team players and youth players stepping up to the mark.

The home side started the brighter putting the Dinas makeshift defence under pressure but the impressive James Curtin in goals was more than a match pulling off a number of great point blank saves. Provis and Bashir showed their experience and with Miller and Mama Banguraso getting through a lot of work, coped very well.

As the half wore on the visitors settled into their passing game and managed to get the young wide players Kings Mwedzo and Sam Johnson on the ball.

Dinas stuck to their game plan of trying to pass through midfield as much as they could and following one of these moves Nathan Donnelly was adjudged to be fouled on the edge of the box. James Alloway had the confidence to curl the ball over the wall but saw his effort cannon off the upright and away to safety.

Debutant Nathan Donnelly was a thorn in the home side's defence with his aerial strength and linked play up very well throughout the match as Dinas broke in numbers on the counter.

Steve Miller and Mama Banguraso, playing as full backs, pushed the visitors on giving simple balls to midfield, and looked to play the right way.

At the break, at 0-0, certain issues were addressed as the home side had the better of the first half and Dinas had to rely on the saves of Curtin too much.

The second half saw Dinas come out with a real intent to play and attack. Kieron James was getting more on the ball and with Newman and Alloway the visitors started to play.

The first 10 minutes was all Dinas as the pace of Kings and Johnson allowed them to get in behind the home side's defence. Donnelly was winning countless headers and the visiting players were first to react to his flick-ons.

Dinas took the lead early in the second half after a late tackle on Banguraso allowed skipper Steve Provis to fire a free kick at Donnelly. His knock down to James Alloway was met on the half volley and was fired into the stanchion of the goal.

The following 10 minutes saw the home side throw a lot at the Dinas lads and it was end to end stuff. The lack of experience then came to light as the visitors did not press fast enough on the edge of the box, and some neat play from the Llwydcoed forwards created a simple chance. All the hard work put in was undone 10 minutes later as Dinas pushed for the winner and they were carved open at the back.

Tom Edwards and Matthew Bennett, two very young lads only recently playing under-16s football for Dinas, entered the game with 15 minutes to go and showed no fear and lots of potential.

Edwards freed Johnson with a delightful pass, and Johnson, playing with a lot more belief, drove past his fullback and was unlucky not to find a target in the box. As the game was coming to a close good work from Edwards and Johnson on the left allowed a cross into the box but the talented young Kings uncharacteristically fired wide from 15 yards which would have given Dinas a point.

This was always going to be a very hard game due to the lack of players available but the visitors showed that by playing the right way their rewards will come in time.

Thank you to all the supporters and players for the minutes silence before the match for Rhodri, Corey, Alesha & Margaret.

LS

The Barry & District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Railway 4, West End 11; Cadoxton Cons 7, Wyndham Cons 8; Rhoose Social 6, Moors Boys 9; Liberals 5, West End Wanderers 10.

League table: Wyndham Cons 171, Liberals 168, Cadoxton Cons 167, Moors Boys 163, West End Wanderers 154, West End 153, Rhoose Social 150, Railway 134.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

SeaView B 5, WestEnd D 2; King William XII 6, Rhoose Social C 1; Allsorts 2, Barries Boys 5; Slammers 5.5, LiberalsA 1.5; Runway Club 3, Rugby Club 4; Liberals C 6.5, Cambrian Flyers 0.5; Rhoosters 1, Rhoose Social A 6; Rhoose Social B 0.5, West End C 6.5.

League table: West End C 110.5, Sea View B 107, Allsorts 89.5, King William XII 87, West End D 83.5, Slammers 82, Barries Boys 76.5, Rugby Club 75.5, Rhoosters 69, Rhoose Social A 68, Rhoose Social B 63.5 Liberals A 58, Rhoose Social C 57.5, Runway Club 53.5, Liberals C 49, Cambrian Flyers 46.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 4, Rhoose Social B 1; Harbour B 2, Savoy A 3; Rhoose Social C 2, Cadoxton Cons B 3; Harbour A 2, Wyndham Cons C 3; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Savoy B 2; West End C 4, Penarth Cons B 1.

League table: Harbour B 87, Savoy A 84, West End C 68, Cadoxton Cons B 65, Cadoxton Cons Z 61, Rhoose Social B 53, Rhoose Social C 51, Wyndham Cons A 51, Harbour A 50, Penarth Cons B 41, Savoy B 41, Wyndham Cons C 38.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Market Street C 5, Liberators 0; Cadoxton Cons A 3, Railway B 2; Penarth Cons A 3, Sully Sports A 2; West End B 0, Railway A 5; Services Social B 3, Penarth Cons D 2; Railway C 3, Market Street B 2.

League table: Railway A 85, Market Street B 61, Railway B 61, Penarth Cons D 58, Services Social B 58, Liberators 57, Market Street C 55, Penarth Cons A 54, Cadoxton Cons A 53, Sully Sports A 52, West End B 41, *Railway C 40 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk or on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

When the Glamorgan Hunt held their first meeting...

THE Glamorgan Hunt will be celebrating their 125th anniversary meeting when they hold their point-to-point at Ystradowen on March 28.

A report in the South Wales Daily News, dated March 7, 1890, read: "The programme for the Cardiff races has just been issued. It contains a list of 12 races, six each day. They are the usual type and call for no comment. Moreover, the interest in them locally is now eclipsed by the point-to-point which is fixed for the 19th of March."

The Cardiff races referred to took place at Ely Racecourse which was to be home to the Welsh Grand National from 1895 until 1939 when the racecourse closed. However, the point-to-point race referred to - in fact there were two of them - was for maiden hunters, the property of subscribers to the Glamorgan and Lord Tredegar Hounds.

The first was for horses not exceeding 15.2hh, the minmum weight being 11st, 7lb. In the second race the riders weighed out at 13st. The races were held on a Wednesday afternoon, and the riders weighed out in the outbuildings of Mr Ralph Thurston, Bassett's farm at Crossways, near Cowbridge.

Mr Bassett, who held the mastership of the Glamorgan Hounds, was a popular sportsman and was solely responsible for the existence of the Cowbridge Hunt races that used to be held at Penllyn Castle, Cowbridge. The course for these races is said to have commenced at a point between Llandow and Stembridge.

Crossing the Clemenston brook, it took a direction northward, and turning right, and leaving Hilton Farm on the left, it was almost a straight line over the Pinklands, finishing up at the Corrwgs. The course, which was mostly grass, was a stiff one and the distance was about four miles.

Victory in the first event went to Mr H Watson's Snitton who a month later landed a selling hunters' steeplechase at Cowbridge Races. There were 12 starters for the second race - there had been 14 in the first - which was won by Capt. Morgan Lindsay's Brunette.

Mr Herbert Sarsfield Watson, the son of Mr Jonas Watson, a well-known Cardiff businesman, was a popular rider at local meetings and on a few occasions had won the Glamorgan Hunt Cup at Cowbridge Steeplechases.

One person who remembered Capt. Morgan Lindsay was Mr W J Heariden who recalled: "He was a real Christian and devout churchman and one of nature's rare gentlemen. He served in the South African War and the 1914-18 war, in which he sadly lost three sons, all I think in the space of 12 months."

Colonel Lindsay, as he was to become, trained many winners from his mountainside training yard at Ystad Mynach and among those to ride for him were Fulke Walwyn, Evan Williams and Sir Harry Llewellyn.

The South Wales Daily News reporter, Cosmos, did not seem entirely satisfied with the conditions of entry for these races. He wrote: "When the conditions were framed, the limiting of the animals' height to 15.2hh was done in order to give the smaller animals - of which there are so many in the hunt - a reasonable expectation of carrying off the trophy, but the intention failed because weight was not allowed for inches, as it should have been."

He went on to say: "The framing of these conditions did not allow a bona fide farmer to enter his horse in either race. Such a small courtesy would cost nothing, and would cement many a friendship." Cosmos, it seems, was not only an outspoken man, but a wise one too!

Adapted from Brian Lee's The Races Came Off- The Story of Point-To-Point Racing in South and West Wales.

BRIAN LEE

Chess Championships sees action heating up

ALTHOUGH the Bosons had a match in division 1 this week, the highlight was the fifth round of the Barry Club Championships and 16 players took part on Thursday night, producing some interesting games.

On top board was Ashley Davis, the only player with a 100 per cent record against the unbeaten Craig Woolcock with 3.5 points from four games. This was one of the longer games of the night and finished with a nice queen, bishop and rook attack and another win for Ashley.

Matthew Parry moves into second place but is a whole point behind Ashley after he defeated Chris Green. Ashley and Matthew are likely to meet in the sixth round with Matthew due to have the white pieces. A draw will almost certainly mean the trophy will remain in the Davis household but a win for Matthew would open up the tournament for a number of players.

The six players entered into the Plate are all within a point of one another in a closely fought section. There was a win for Ken Hannah over Martin Ricketts, who forgot that his knight was preventing a mating attack and moved it, promptly losing.

Ken stands on three points level with the canny Windsor Lewis who took a bye in this round. Windsor heads Ken on tie break but is also entered into the Bowl and leads this section by a point.

Windsor is likely to get a tough opponent in round six so the other Bowl entrants may catch up some lost ground.

In the league the Bosons earned a victory by 3.5 to 1.5 over the relegation-haunted Nelson Rhinos. The Bosons won by drawing the top three boards and winning on the bottom two boards.

Of particular note was Pagona's win; after being a pawn down she captured the queen to take a back rank mate. It was a good week for Pagona who followed up with a win in the Club Championships as well.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Bowls open day

RHOOSE Bowling Club are busy preparing for their 2015 season.

It will commence on Saturday, April 11, with the club's open day and anyone interested in finding out about bowls is invited to attend.

Club coaches will be available to provide instruction from 2pm, all that is required is a pair of flat shoes.

JH

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

WALES 23 IRELAND 16

'WE KNOW HOW TO BEAT YOU' TAUNTS REBOUND FOR THE SECOND TIME AS...

The fiery Red Dragon roars defiance and turns the Irish dream to ashes again!

ABOVE, left: The Welsh defence moves in to repel yet another Irish onslaught. ABOVE, right: Scott Williams cuts through the Irish defence.

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

JUST before their epic quarter final clash at the 2011 Rugby World Cup in Wellington, New Zealand, the Irish camp artfully let it be known that they "*knew how to beat Wales*".

It may have all been part of the 'phoney-war' wind-up mind games that are played before the real action begins out on the pitch, but nevertheless there was some justification for the claim, given that Ireland had won eight out of the 10 previous meetings, including a 'double' over their former head coach Warren Gatland's Wales – 27-12 at Croke Park in 2010 and 17-15 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in Ireland's Grand Slam year, 2009.

Tongue-in-cheek or not, the pre-match barbs came back to haunt them, as a young Welsh team that were the dark horses of the tournament, suddenly exploded into World Cup action, ripping Ireland's old guard apart (22-10) with a controlled fury they have not been quite able to replicate since – with the possible exception of the ferocious 30-3 dismantling of Grand Slam-hunting England at the Millennium Stadium in March 2013.

At the time, this column noted that the RWC stunner would come to be seen as a defining, coming-of-age landmark on the road to the long-awaited Welsh revival, following on from two Grand Slams in 2005 and 2008.

It was built on an iron-clad, aggressive defence and relentless power play that has become Gatland's trademark – though since mocked in some quarters as 'Warren-ball'; a theme taken up by former Irish international Neil Francis in a controversial newspaper article, who repeated the "*Ireland know how to beat Wales*" claim just days before Saturday's Six Nations showdown at the Millennium Stadium:

"They (Wales) are quietly confident they can do us… They are confident every time they play us! Their problem is that their game is pretty one dimensional – Warren-ball," he scoffed, going on to say mischievously that Gatland had the "*intellectual properties of a tub of Flora*" – an outburst guaranteed to raise Welsh hackles, adding even more spice to an already charged atmosphere in the home dressing room.

The question was, could the team respond as they had done before to Irish taunts in New Zealand?

'Yes' was the emphatic answer and it came in 80 pulsating minutes of raw courage and fierce physical commitment, with a truly remarkable defensive effort hewn out of '*they shall not pass!*' defiance – the like of which has not been seen at the Millennium Stadium for many a year.

From the outset, it was clear that the form book was being ripped up and if the No 3 side in the world, who were on a 10-match winning roll, really believed the pre-match hype that they '*knew how to beat one-dimensional Wales*' they were soon to be disabused, as the home team hurled themselves bodily into the fray to claim a famous 23-16 victory and deny the tournament favourites any chance of a Grand Slam.

Last week, this column suggested Wales were "poised to burst the green bubble", with growing signs that a slow to burn Welsh fuse was set to burst into flame in the penultimate match of the Six Nations and predicted – '*It's going to be a craic-er*!'

And so it proved with a vengeance, as two old Celtic rivals clashed in hand-to-hand sporting combat that was not for the fainthearted.

There was no way the Welsh fuse would burn slow this day – with the home side roaring out of the starting blocks and almost immediately forcing their taken aback opponents into the first of a stream of penalties which Leigh Halfpenny snapped up; and followed this five minutes later when the Irish conceded a second penalty, this time directly in front of their posts.

The metronomic full back sounded a warning that all indiscretions would be severely punished from anywhere on the park, when the now clearly rattled men in green were penalised on halfway and over it sailed to make the score 9-0 with just 10 minutes gone.

The lesson, it seems, was not heeded, for the visitors' were harried into yet another penalty infringement gobbled up by Halfpenny – though it also coincided with tight head prop Samson Lee leaving the field with a leg injury, to be replaced by Aaron Jarvis.

(The game also saw young Pembrokeshire prop Rob Evans later make his senior debut off the bench, replacing 113-cap Gethin Jenkins).

Ireland's danger man, the usually assured Johnny Sexton, whose kicking was expected to be pivotal to the outcome (no pun intended!) was showing he, too, is not immune to error, failing with a kickable penalty attempt, though he made amends (just!) with a kick that bobbled over the crossbar for Ireland's first points, to make it 12-3.

Thanks to giant second row Luke Charteris and Welsh skipper Sam Warburton (who celebrated breaking the record for most Wales caps as captain with a man-of-the-match award), Wales were dominating the lineout where Ireland were expected to have a field day.

When Warburton was yellow carded, reducing his team to 14 men for 10 minutes and Sexton found his range with the resulting penalty to cut the deficit to 12-6, some feared this could be the critical turning point.

His opposite number, Dan Biggar eased the nerves with a well-worked drop goal to make the score 15-6. Then, as halftime approached, the visitors suddenly hit back with a cross-field move that almost reaped dividends, but the heroic Welsh defence held out – though having to concede a penalty smack in front of their posts which made the score 15-9.

After the changeover, the home team was subjected to wave after wave of all-out attacks that threatened to overwhelm the defensive redline, with Irish attackers encamped there for an incredible 32 phases – but coming away empty handed.

The ball was finally cleared away to touch – and then it was Wales' turn to attack, replacement centre Scott Williams cut through the defence like a knife through butter (or Flora!) for a top drawer team try, which for once Halfpenny failed to convert.

At 20-9, the two incidents could well have demoralised a lesser side, but the Grand Slam hopefuls were made of sterner stuff and again Wales found themselves under the cosh, pinned on their own line.

Something had to give, and this time it was the home defence, with the referee pointing to the posts for a converted penalty try that reduced the gap to four points at 20-16, with just seven minutes to full time.

By now the combatants resembled two weary boxers who had fought each other to a standstill and it was to the relief of everyone wearing red when Halfpenny took off his headguard and lined up his final penalty kick for a truly momentous win, the scoreboard now reading 23-16.

Even with the clock hand edging toward the 80-minute mark, the men in green were still pressing hard, only thwarted by that valiant rearguard defence.

Now for the cliff-hanger in Rome!

WALES TEAM TO FACE ITALY:

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon); George North (Northampton Saints), Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets); Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Rob Evans (Scarlets), Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Cardiff Blues, captain), Taulupe Faletau (Newport Gwent Dragons).

Replacements: Ken Owens (Scarlets), Rhys Gill (Saracens), Scott Andrews (Cardiff Blues), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Gareth Davies (Scarlets), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets).